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LEGISLATIVE PROSPECTS.

It would seem that there is a latent principle at the bottom of the intentions of the Government in dealing with the comprehensive programme of legislation which they have just laid before the country, and that is, a determination to do one thing at a time. To all the urgency of the leaders of the Opposition to take them into his confidence with regard to his measures, the First Minister opposes a good-humoured but firm resistance. He declines to entangle the proceedings of the ante-Session with speculative and tentative discussions on subjects which, according to the letter of the law which guides political movements in this country, he is entitled to keep to himself for two months longer. He objects to afford opportunities for swamping him with suggestions, or to lose time in taking advice. If the attitude of the Government really and advisedly denoted the adoption of a plan of confining the deliberations of Parliament to the consideration of one measure until it has gone through the tedious process of exhaustion in debate and reached the finality of construction, a great deal would be done towards settling the long-vexed question of how the legislation of the country is to be carried on within the given number of months which is all that legislators can afford to the public service. One can just recognise the outline of a system by which, the force of the Government being concentrated for every available day in the week on one bill, its progress could be definitively estimated; and, if six weeks were taken as the average period in which opposition could be combated, and amendment effected, it would be possible to calculate on the passing of at least three large measures in an average Session. A notable instance of some such plodding and pounding system was the Divorce Bill of last autumn, which was forced inch by inch, and day by day, through the House of Commons, without the withdrawal of the Government pressure for a single interval. It is to be feared,



THE LATE GENERAL NEILL.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

however, that such a plan would suit neither the genius nor the habits of Parliament, or the exigencies of Ministers. As regards the latter, it is most generally their cue to treat their legislative capital much as goldbeaters do the metal on which they work—that is, to spread it out as thinly as possible; and nothing is supposed to tend more to the prolongation of the existence of a Ministry, possessing a reputation of being tolerably capable, than the discreet promotion of a belief among the governed that they are always on the verge of being blessed. In speculating on the prospects of the Session which is before us, and calculating on its products, we have to consider—first, the attitude of the Government; and, secondly, the temper and disposition of both Houses of Parliament. As regards the former, the ordinary want of faith in a Speech from the Throne has to be weighed against the insensible influence which the demeanour of Ministers in presenting themselves before the Legislature must naturally exercise on opinion with respect to their intentions. It should be observed that the number of measures which are specifically mentioned is small; but the subjects to which they relate involve interests of such importance that it would imply an insanity of rashness in a Ministry in putting them forward unless they are fully prepared to conduct them into perfection. It is impossible to imagine that, at a juncture like the present, a Government would be criminal enough to throw on the table of the House of Commons the names of a series of measures which are actually the offspring of the circumstances by which we are surrounded, merely as a pretext and a sham; and if, so far as matters have already gone, there seems to be an inclination (as in the case of the Bank Charter Act) to resort to inquiry, and a further collection of opinion and experience, there is no reason why that course should not be consistent with entire readiness for action at the moment of maturity. On the whole, we are inclined to give Minis-



HOUSE AT ARRAB FORTIFIED AGAINST THE DINAPORE MUTINEERS.—FROM A SKETCH BY MAJOR V. EYRE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



ters credit for approaching the enormous interests with which, from very necessity and absolute exigency, they have to deal, with every appearance of real intention, tempered by adequate caution. The spirit by which the Legislature would seem to be actuated is satisfactory. The opening debates of the Session have been characterised by a good humour, and, at the same time, by an apparent sense of the gravity of the occasion, which is hopeful of a real and general application of the mind of Parliament to the task which is before it. There is a significance in the fact that there is no organised, consolidated, or, so to speak, official opposition; and, therefore, as all questions seem likely to be treated less from a party than an abstract point of view, so much the better chance for a tactical and judicious Government. Not that there is an entire absence of comment on the part of the chartered professors of criticism on Ministers. It is a known impossibility for Lord Derby to be good-natured when he is on his legs; and the temptation of dissecting a Queen's Speech, and scarifying a President of the Board of Control, when that functionary is actually within hearing of his Lordship's voice, and under the immediate influence of his eye, is of course too much for his powers of retention. To be sure, Mr. Disraeli is not to be expected to forego his elaborate sarcasms or his forcible grumbings while he sits exactly in the face of a Ministry; and it is not to be expected that Mr. Gladstone can wholly agree on matters of finance with the Chancellor of the Exchequer who succeeded him in office. Undoubtedly the Bank Charter Act and the Currency are the least likely subjects in the world to promote unanimity of talk among six hundred gentlemen, each of whom fancies he knows something about it, any more than measures relating to Indian administration are probable to escape the scalping-knife of Lord Ellenborough, so long as he is not a Governor-General. But, on the whole, everything seems to predicate a tendency on the part of Parliament to rise to the emergency of the case, and to deal with large measures with a comprehensive commensurate with their importance. Each of these questions which are to come under immediate review must in the fulness of time have dropped overripe into the lap of Parliament. They have, however, been forced on by the artificial heat of circumstances, and must be gathered at once, and with no hesitating hand. The Bank Charter Act has to be considered, not only because it has been in operation for a certain number of years, but because it has been violated for the second time within a given period of its existence, and at the present time from a necessity which was more pressing than that of ten years ago, and which has resulted in a far more determinate test of its want of adaptability to the exigencies of commerce. The Government of India, in the natural course of events, must have come ere long, in some shape or other, before the country and Legislature. Mighty events have precipitated the question, which is no longer one of renewal or non-renewal of the Charter of the East India Company, but of how the Queen's Government is to be carried on in that vast dependency; of how the army in India is to be permanently increased; and what is to be the nature and composition of that army. There will be also the consideration of the complicated question of Indian finance, of Indian trade, and of her peculiar traffic. The bit-by-bit measures of individual Parliamentary Reformers which have fluttered about the House of Commons for the last few years only to subside into the waste-basket will give place to a Government bill which will be supposed to comprehend enough to satisfy all sections of opinion, or, at least, which must be so strong and so equal in its provisions as to secure the support of a large majority. The admission of the Jews to Parliament, and the general question of Parliamentary oaths, the Minister yields to Lord John Russell, contenting himself, as it is understood, with such a readjustment of the state of parties in the Upper House as to secure its safe passage at last through the perils which it has hitherto encountered there.

Nor, amidst the louder cries for immediate action on these mighty subjects, has the small voice of the Law Reformers been unheard. The law of real property and the criminal law have their places in the list of measures, and all that can be said is, that we hope that they may keep them. For once the ready sneer of a Ministry meeting a Parliament without a policy is forestalled. Each difficulty of the day is broadly and unhesitatingly approached. How they will be handled in detail we have yet to learn. The administrative affairs of a great country in a great crisis require, in the choice of the remedies which are to be applied to the difficulties of the situation, that they should be bold without being adventurous, extensive without being extravagant, and characterised by an endeavour to direct by the lights of experience the tendencies and impulses of the times. The Ministry has taken the initiative on each main subject which concerns the public weal, and in doing so they have taught the country to expect much, and much will be required of them. It remains for them to prove that they are abreast of their responsibility, and that they have the strength as well as the will to "outdare the dangers of the hour."

FORTIFIED HOUSE IN ARRAH.

THE details of this interesting episode in the war in India, condensed partly from a description furnished by the magistrate of the district, Mr. Herwald Wake, who headed this gallant defence, were given in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for September 26. The siege lasted seven days. To Mr. Boyle's engineering skill and untiring exertions the besieged in great measure owed their preservation. Mr. Colvin also rendered valuable assistance. Mr. Wake (who headed the defence) is the fourth son of Sir Charles Wake, Bart., of Courteen Hall, county of Northampton, and nephew of the Bishop of London. A lithograph of the house, from a sketch by Major V. Eyre, has been published at Calcutta, whence our View has been engraved. The lithograph bears the following superscription:—"Sketch of the House at Arrah. Fortified by Mr. Boyle, District Engineer, E. I. Railway, and defended by him and Mr. Wake, Magistrate, with 50 Sikhs and the English residents, for seven days against three mutinous regiments from Dinapore. Siege raised 3rd August, 1857. Print dedicated to the heroic garrison."

MIDDLE RACHEL.—Doctor Bergonier, who is the attending physician of Middle Rachel, has published the following bulletin of her state of health:—"The daily intermittent fever which had retarded the cure of the illustrious patient has yielded to sulphate of quinine. The left lung is much better; the invalid can sleep on that side as well as on the right. The nights are generally good; danger still exists, but it is diminishing every day.—Caen, Dec. 5, 1857."

The first case of trial by jury has come off at Constantinople before the English Consular Tribunal. A Maltese was brought up before half-a-dozen English residents, and found guilty of homicide.

THE LATE GENERAL NEILL.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JAMES GEORGE SMITH NEILL, whose brief but brilliant career has secured for him a lasting place among Scottish worthies, was born on the 27th May, 1810; and was the eldest son of Colonel Smith Neill, of Swindridge-muir and Barnweill, in the county of Ayr. After receiving his education at Glasgow College, young Neill sailed for India at the age of sixteen, and entered the 1st Madras European Fusiliers. He was, ere long, appointed Fort Adjutant at Masulipatam; and, at Kamptee, became successively Quartermaster and Adjutant of his regiment. In 1835 he married Isabella, daughter of Colonel William Ward, of the 5th Bengal Native Cavalry, a member of the Kentish family of that name, and great-nephew of the first Marquis Cornwallis. In 1837 Lieutenant Neill came home on sick leave, but the news of the Cabul expedition tempted him back to India a twelvemonth before his three years had expired. His offers to serve in Afghanistan not being accepted, he was employed by Sir Robert Dick to effect the first establishment of the depot at St. Thomas's Mount, and he afterwards became Assistant Adjutant-General of Sir Robert's division; but on Lord Gough succeeding to the command, with his staff already complete, Lieutenant Neill returned to his regiment. In 1841 Sir Robert Dick became Acting Commander-in-Chief at Madras, and one of his first acts was to bestow on Neill the Assistant Adjutant-Generalship of the ceded districts—a post which he filled until the commencement of the last Burmese war. His regiment being then ordered to the scene of action, he joined, but was almost immediately placed on Sir Scudamore Steel's staff, with the office of Adjutant-General of the Forces in the field. Here he was repeatedly distinguished by the notice of the Governor-General, and obtained the rank of Brevet Colonel. Constant exposure, however, to the Burmese sun produced brain fever, and he was again compelled to return to his native country. Again, too, the outbreak of hostilities, though in a different region, tempted him to abridge the repose which he had so fairly earned; and the early part of 1855 saw him a volunteer for service in the Crimea, where he was appointed Brigadier-General of the Turkish Contingent. Here his firmness, tact, and experience of Oriental character proved of conspicuous value in dealing with the Ottoman levies. During the ensuing winter he held the important position of Yenikale, which commands the Sea of Azoff, and remained in the Crimea until the close of the Russian campaign.

The Bengal mutiny broke out shortly after he had returned to India, and he was forthwith sent with his regiment to Calcutta, with orders to proceed to Benares, when an incident occurred which well illustrated that fearlessness of responsibility which pre-eminently marked him out as the man for the crisis. A portion of the Madras Fusiliers not having arrived at the Howrah station by the hour at which the train was appointed to start, and the railway official having pertinaciously refused to sanction any delay on that account, Colonel Neill put him under arrest, and kept back the carriages until the remainder of the corps arrived—thus ensuring the prompt transmission of the whole regiment to Benares at a crisis when every man and every hour were of importance. There, too, he had again to brave responsibility by superseding his superior officer, at the request of the latter. The result quickly justified the step. At the head of 200 of his own Fusiliers and a few artillerymen, Colonel Neill repelled a desperate attack made by some 1500 sepoys on the only three guns in the place, cleared the town of the mutineers, and, thanks to a liberal use of rope and powder, so effectually restored order that he was very soon able to advance on Allahabad.

On the 16th May he gained another brilliant victory; and on the 23rd received the thanks of the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief. In the meantime his health had suffered so much from his ceaseless exertions, that for a time he was obliged to keep a recumbent position, except when fighting was going on, when he gave his orders sitting on the batteries. But no lack of energy was visible in his acts; and the prompt justice dealt out by him to a batch of mutineers found concealed at Allahabad was immediately followed and justified by the liberation of some forty English prisoners who had been kept in confinement by the neighbouring chiefs.

By the 16th of July he had restored order at Allahabad, and had joined Havelock at Cawnpore, where he obtained the sole command on the 29th. He now set about introducing a police, put down plundering, and took measures for tracing and restoring stolen property. Here, too, he devised his well-known punishment for the Brahmin mutineers under sentence of death, whom he compelled to lose caste by causing them to clean a portion of the blood-stained room which had been the scene of their own and Nana Sahib's atrocities.

The necessity of speedily relieving Lucknow was the subject of General Neill's incessant representations to the authorities; and to his remonstrances against the delay which he conceived was incurred in marching for the beleaguered garrison may, under Providence, be ascribed the timely arrival of the relieving force. Twenty-four hours more would have been too late. The brigade under his command with which he marched for Lucknow consisted of the Madras Fusiliers, H.M. 84th, the 5th Fusiliers, and a battery of Royal Artillery, under Captain Maude. The united forces, led by Havelock, had to fight their way through the city of Lucknow to the Residency; and when there (on the 25th Sept.) a series of batteries had to be carried at the point of the bayonet. "Here," says a writer in the *Bombay Times*, "fell the gallant General Neill, the pride and idol of the army."

The foregoing sketch of Neill in his public capacity has left us little space to devote to those frank, cordial, and noble qualities, which, in private life, endeared him to all who knew him. By his men he was beloved—and no wonder, for they were the pride of his heart, and he was constantly on the watch to promote their well-being, whether in cantonments or in the field. Nor was his considerateness confined to them. One of his latest cares, on leaving Cawnpore, was to provide a post-carriage, stored with little comforts for the women and children whom he hoped to assist in resuing from Lucknow. As regards his personal appearance, he was tall and strongly made. His countenance was open and dignified, his eyes were dark, and his hair, which was prematurely grey, contrasted strikingly with a black moustache and beard.

Snatched in the fulness of fame from his country's gratitude, Neill has left a numerous family. The Queen has raised his widow to the rank which would have been hers in right of the rank of K.C.B. which was in store for the deceased hero. The East India Company has conferred upon Lady Neill a grant of £500 a year. But it still remains for Parliament to recognise, in the name of the nation, services which were rendered, not to the Company alone, but to England, and which, coming when they did, may be truly said to have first turned back the tide of revolt which threatened to overwhelm our Indian Empire.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

HIS Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief holds a levee on Saturday (to-day), at two o'clock.

A REPORT is current in naval circles that, when the expected Channel squadron is ordered to assemble, Rear-Admiral Codrington will have the command.

AN Admiral of the Fleet is to be created in the person of Sir Charles Ogle, Bart., the Senior Admiral of the Red. Sir Charles's father, Sir Chalonier Ogle, Bart., died Senior Admiral of the Navy in 1816, and his grandfather died Admiral of the Fleet in 1751.

Two officers at Canterbury were recently placed under arrest for associating with a non-commissioned officer: they are to be released with a severe reprimand; as also the Depot Sergeant-Major, with an injunction to be more circumspect in his conduct towards the officers.

ON Friday (last week) the officers of the Royal Engineers were assembled at Brompton Barracks for the purpose of hearing the sentence of a court-martial on Lieut. George W. Vansittart Yule, Royal Engineers, on a number of charges of negligence of duty, absence from parade, and scandalous conduct, preferred against him. The court found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of his youth and inexperience. The prisoner was sentenced to be dismissed the service.

THE 8th company of Sappers and Miners is under orders to embark for China, the order for its embarkation for India having been countermanded.

MR. BRIGHT has written to the Chairman of his Committee at Birmingham, stating that, following the advice of his medical attendants, he begs to be excused taking his seat till after the Christmas recess. He speaks of the difficulty of legislating for India while the storm rages as impossible, or of little avail; but considers the days of the Leadheadist rulers as numbered. Should the threatened Reform Bill be postponed, he will console himself with the reflection that it may hereafter be entrusted to more friendly hands than those which now administer the affairs of the country.

THE MUTINY IN INDIA.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

The following telegram was received at the Foreign Office on Monday, at 6.35 p.m.:—

MALTA, 2p.m., 4th Dec.

Political intelligence received at Suez, per *Oriental*, on the 23th November.

Two convoys of provisions arrived safely at Lucknow, where Havelock still was surrounded by large numbers of the enemy, who were said to have three hundred guns.

There had been some severe fighting, and General Outram was reported to have been wounded.

Sir Colin Campbell and staff left Namwoor for Cawnpore, 28th October, to which place the troops were being moved up as quickly as possible, and will proceed to the relief of Lucknow when in sufficient strength.

The following steamers arrived in Calcutta with troops since the departure of the last mail:—*Sydney*, Australian passed *Lady Jocelyn*, 10th November, and *Candia*, near Sandheads.

There were at Madras the steam-ships *Victoria* and *Carthage*. At Galle the *Robert Lowe* and *Cleopatra*, and ships, merchantmen.

The *Emu* left Aden, the 20th, for Bombay; Calcutta, 1st November; Madras, 6th November; Galle, 20th November.

(Signed)

LYONS, Admiral.

Consul CRAIG.

Telegraphic message received on Wednesday at the East India House, dated Calcutta, 31st Oct., 1857, from G. F. Edmonstone, Esq., the Secretary to the Government of India:—

LUCKNOW.

Communications still difficult, and no certain intelligence from Lucknow of later date than 21st Oct. received at this office.

On that date food was running short, and it would seem that the gun bullocks were being slaughtered.

But relief was approaching. Colonel Greathed's column, after re-occupying Mynpoorie, putting the Rajah to flight, and recovering much property and two and a half lacs of treasure, reached Cawnpore on the 26th.

For some time past troops have been leaving this daily for the same destination, and the Commander-in-Chief started on the 27th.

BRIGADIER SHOWERS' COLUMN.

The force of about 1200 from Delhi, under Brigadier Showers, occupied Dadree on the 15th of October, taking six guns, and then, being joined by Cashmere troops, took possession of Jhujur, with twenty-one guns and much ammunition. The Nawab surrendered himself. On the 20th they seized Kanood, cutting off 400 of the Nawab's troops, and taking five lacs of treasure.

DELHI.

There is no doubt that the King's life has been guaranteed. He will be sent to Allahabad, for conveyance to Calcutta. Particulars have been called for.

REWAH.

The arrival of the Madras troops at the Kuttra Pass put everything at Rewah into the political agent's hands. The Sirdars submitted, and gave up the prisoners whom they had forcibly released. The Rajah expressed extreme regret, and quiet was restored. The political agent intended to return from the camp at the Kuttra Pass to Rewah. On the 25th the troops were to march from the camp towards Cawnpore.

NATIVE STATES.

An agent of Nana Sahib has put himself at the head of the mutineers of the Gwalior Contingent, and it is thought probable that he may form a junction with the Dinapore mutineers at Banda, or that he may march direct to Calpee.

The Gwalior mutineers left Gwalior on the 15th and 16th, with a siege train, field guns, and much ammunition, and have been heard of thirty-six miles from Gwalior.

Major Burton, the political agent at Harrowtee, has been foully murdered, with his two sons, by the Raj troops. The Rajah is said not to have been concerned in the act.

Joudpore mutineers have gone towards Sambhur Lake, and the Indore mutineers who were defeated at Agra on the 10th have fled to Rajpootana.

G. F. EDMONSTONE,

Secretary to the Government of India.

LATEST NEWS FROM CALCUTTA.

(From the *Bengal Hurkaru* of Oct. 31.)

The opportunity of an additional steamer enables us to transmit an extra Overland Summary, which will doubtless be acceptable to our home readers in their thirst for Indian news.

The short time that has elapsed since the publication of our last bi-monthly publication has not been productive of any very important events. We are still gaining successes over the rebels, who are showing every determination not to be subdued if they can help it. As we told our readers on the 22nd inst., the rebellion is by no means put down, neither are the rebels showing the smallest signs of being disheartened. They are still threatening our forces at all the principal points in Bengal and the north-west. In the other presidencies, as in the Punjab, there is but little disturbance of the outward tranquillity which has generally prevailed, though in Bombay some traitors have been discovered among the sepoys, and some severe executions have been the result.

According to the present aspect of things it seems Oude is to be the great centre of the contest which we have now to sustain. Agra has been again threatened, but the insurgents have diverted their course, and are now proceeding in the direction of Lucknow, where, on the other hand, we are preparing to concentrate a large force, in order to make a decisive blow. It has become apparent now to all, and we believe that the Commander-in-Chief was the first to be convinced of the fact, that the maintenance of our present position in Oude can only be effected by a force as formidable in numbers as the little armies which have been hitherto sent have been formidable in daring and valour. Sir Colin Campbell has already left Calcutta for Cawnpore, where he will establish his headquarters, and where he will join Colonel Greathed with his victorious column, which has already arrived. Troops—of which we have now a large number in Calcutta—are being sent up as fast as carriages can be secured for them, and Sir Colin will doubtless have a large force at his disposal for the work that has to be done. Notwithstanding the gallant efforts of both officers and men in what was called the relief of Lucknow, it is but too apparent that the "relief" was only a reinforcement, and that our two positions—the Residency and Alumbagh—have been unable to effect a communication in the face of the tremendous odds opposed to them. We have had but vague accounts of the condition of the garrisons of these two places, and the most alarming rumours were of course circulated. Yesterday we received some more certain information, and from this it is known that a rather severe loss was sustained at a sortie from Alumbagh, made for the purpose of establishing a communication with the Residency, and that Sir James Outram himself was wounded.

The head-quarters of the 32nd Native Infantry have behaved very well since the mutiny of the detached portion of the regiment. Their commandant, Colonel Burney—an officer who thoroughly understands sepoynature—marched them down to Raneegunge, where they laid down their arms in a most tractable manner, without a request or hint of any kind. They remain at Raneegunge at present, to add to the difficulty which is felt in disposing of the other three disarmed regiments in Calcutta and Barrackpore. These corps are too bad to be trusted and too good to be shot, and are therefore fit for nothing except to receive their pay and to necessitate the employment of an European regiment to look after them.

ADDITIONAL MAILS TO AND FROM INDIA.—Commencing with

January next, the mails for the East Indies and China, transmitted via Marseilles, will be dispatched from London as follows, viz.—those intended for the Bombay packets, on the evenings of the 2nd and 17th of each month; and those intended for the Calcutta packets (including the mails for Ceylon, Madras, and China), on the evenings of the 9th and 25th of each month. The Bombay packets will also carry letters for Calcutta and Madras, to be forwarded from Bombay by the inland posts; and it is expected that they will reach their destination some days in advance of the letters sent by the next Calcutta packet. The packets from Southampton will continue to run in connection with the Calcutta line; and mails via Southampton for Calcutta, Ceylon, Madras, and China will be made up in London, as at present, on the mornings of the 4th and 20th of each month. For Bombay, mails via Southampton will be forwarded by the above packets, as well as by the Australian packets (the mails for which are made up in London on the morning of the 12th of each month), as far as Egypt, where they will await the departure of the next packet for Bombay. When the 4th, 12th, or 20th of the month falls on a Sunday, the mails will be made up on the previous evening; and when the 2nd, 9th, 17th, or 25th of the month falls on a Sunday, the mails will be made up on the following evening.—The homeward mails will, in like manner, leave Calcutta and Madras four times a month, and at nearly equal intervals, being dispatched twice by packet to Suez, as at present, and twice via Bombay. The mails from Bombay will leave that port on the 9th and 24th; and the portion brought via Marseilles will be due in London about the 4th and 19th of each month. The portion brought via Southampton will come from Alexandria by the first mail-packet, Indian or Australian, leaving that port for Southampton after their arrival.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The Bank of France, after reducing its rate of discount upon all paper to 9 per cent, has further modified its terms as follows:—Upon bills of thirty days it charges now only 6 per cent; of thirty-one to sixty days, 7 per cent; and of sixty-one to ninety days, 8 per cent.

The Empress Eugénie is having a yacht built at Havre on a scale of unusual magnificence. It is to be formed on the model of the *Victoria and Albert*, and is to be called the *Napoléon et Eugénie*.

At the first market for the sale of Olives held at Aix, in Provence, the price obtained was 8 fr. the measure of eight gallons. The crop of olives this year is equal to a fair average, the fruit excellent, and the oil of this year will be of the very best quality.

The Council of Rheims, which opened on the 18th ult., has terminated its deliberations, and appointed the next council to be held at the Cathedral of Beauvais, in 1860. One of the chief decrees passed relates, it is said, to the recognition of the absolute authority in the Church of France of all the decisions of the Roman Congregations.

The journal *La Presse* has, like the *Assemblée Nationale*, been suspended for two months, after incurring three previous "warnings."

The screw transport *Gironde*, which has been ordered to Toulon to be fitted out for a long voyage, is to take on board 500 artillerymen and marines, convey them to China, and place them at the disposal of Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, at present commanding the French squadron off Canton.

The French Government is said to have appointed Felix Belly as Minister to Central America, to co-operate with Sir William Gore Ouseley.

The swearing in of the new members of the new Legislative Body having terminated, the Chambers were on Saturday last prorogued to January 18.

SPAIN.

The journals contain no political news of interest.

Distribution of bread, meat, and wine was made, on the occasion of the birth of the Prince of the Asturias, to the garrisons of Madrid and the neighbouring places. Her Majesty and the Prince were as well as could be wished.

The Queen has commuted the sentences of death on five criminals. The effective force of the Spanish army was stated to be 90,971 men.

PORTUGAL.

The King has nominated the Bishop of Coimbra, Manoel Bento Rodrigues, to the vacant seat of Patriarch of Lisbon.

The King appears to have gained a lasting place in the estimation of his people by his noble and unselfish conduct during the last few months, and to have become popular in the highest degree.

The fever has sensibly diminished.

AUSTRIA.

According to a Vienna letter in the *Post Gazette* of Frankfurt, the Austrian Government intends, after effecting the reduction of its army, to keep 100,000 men in Hungary and the German provinces, 100,000 in Italy, and 50,000 in Vienna and the environs.

SWITZERLAND.

A telegram from Berne of the 7th inst. announces that the Swiss National Council was opened that day by Messrs. Sedler and Zoug, and the Council of the States by MM. Baun and Gartner. The National Council named M. Vahelin, Bale, its President, and M. Scholler, of Friburg, its Vice-President.

HOLLAND.

The Second Chamber of the States General of Holland proceeded on the 30th ult. to discuss the report of a Committee on the state of the Dutch possessions in the East Indies in 1854, and the Minister of the Colonies took occasion to announce that he had that day received a despatch from the Governor-General announcing that the expedition of Timor had been successful, and that tranquillity prevailed in all the colonies; also that he had at his disposal sufficient resources in money and in military and naval forces. The Minister added that since September last the colonial army had been reinforced by 5000 Europeans, and that next year it is intended to increase the navy by eighteen steamers. He further said that it is proposed to put down the pirates who infest the vicinity of the Soolon Islands.

RUSSIA.

Some interesting details have been received from St. Petersburg relative to the reforms in contemplation by the Czar in the situation of the serfs. These reforms will, it is said, consist, 1st, of the right accorded to the serfs to marry without the consent of their master, or not to marry, even though he should order them to do so; 2ndly, corporal punishments can no longer be inflicted, except on the sentence of a communal tribunal; 3rdly, the master cannot, at his own will, take the peasant from the plough to make him a servant, or assign him any other employment; and 4thly, the peasant can no longer be transferred from one village to another. These are very material ameliorations, and will be accepted as an immense benefit by those who are the objects of them.

A letter from St. Petersburg of the 29th ult., in the *Constitutionnel*, says:—"The commercial crisis begins to make itself felt here. Several houses have already stopped payment, and among them that of Balen, whose liabilities amount to about a million of roubles. Serious apprehensions are felt for Warsaw, and the houses in relation with Poland. The decisive moment has not, however, yet arrived for Russia, as the worst time will be when the calls are made on the shares in the different undertakings which have been recently commenced."

UNITED STATES.

The latest accounts from New York report satisfactory progress in the recovery from the late crisis in monetary matters.

General Worth's monument in New York was inaugurated, and his remains placed under it, on the 25th ult., with great ceremony and parade.

A Washington despatch says that the War Department designs sending two columns of military into Utah from the Pacific side, one from Oregon and the other from California.

Two envoys from Costa Rica have been formally received at Washington. In a speech on this occasion Mr. Buchanan expressed a hope to see a United Confederacy of Central American States.

AUSTRALIA.

Victoria is still receiving more immigrants than it can readily absorb. It is calculated that at least 30,000 have been added to its population during the past year; and immigrants are still pouring in at the rate of 1000 a week. Since the last mail the condition of the people has somewhat improved. The Government has provided temporary work for a large number of those who were on the verge of destitution, and others have been absorbed by private industrial enterprise.

The antipathy between the white population of Victoria and the Chinese continues unabated. At the gold-fields and elsewhere collisions occasionally occur; and it is believed that there would be a general rising of the Europeans for the expulsion of the obnoxious race, but for the prospect of speedy legislation upon the subject. A bill has passed a second reading in the House of Assembly, the principle of which is to make the Chinese pay a fee of £1 each for liberty to reside in Victoria.

The intelligence from the various gold-fields has generally been of a favourable character. The total quantity of gold shipped during the year, inclusive of shipments to Sydney and the neighbouring colonies, has been 2,175,143 oz., or 90 tons 2 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lb. 9 oz.; which, at 80s. per oz., yields the value of £8,700,564.

HAMBURG.—The failures have come thick and fast upon this commercial community. The warehouses are choked with unsaleable produce, and acceptances of respectable houses treated as little better than blank paper; and such was the effect of the panic that Prussian Royal Bank notes could only be exchanged for silver at 25 per cent discount. In its second sitting, on Sunday, the Assembly of the Burgers came to an understanding with the Senate. There will not be a forced circulation of new notes. A further sum of 15,000,000 marks has been placed at the disposal of commerce, the first fifteen having been absorbed.

THE RUSSIAN FRONTIER IN ASIA.—The Commission of the four Powers signed, on the 5th inst., at Constantinople, the final act of the rectification of the Russian frontier in Asia.

MEXICO.—Late accounts show that this country is in a distracted condition. Comofort's fall was considered certain. The revolutionists were favoured at present by Santa Anna.

DURING the present year, notwithstanding the prevalence of the cattle murrain through a large portion of the north and east of Europe, 22,111 head of cattle have been landed at Lowestoft from the steamers of the North of Europe Steam Navigation Company, and forwarded to the metropolis by railway.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

"HOGARTH is not dead!" exclaimed a Dorsetshire lady, echoed by an Albany amateur, after reading the following obituary announcement in the *Times* of Thursday last:—

On the 9th inst., at his chambers in the Albany, Henry Ralph Willett, Esq., of Merly House, Dorset.

Now, who was Mr. Willett? many will ask. Shall we answer the question? Yes. Mr. Willett loved and understood Hogarth; ay, and bought Hogarths, and those of the very best quality. No one individual (her Majesty, of course, excepted, who deservedly represents so many) understood Hogarth so well, and spent more money wisely and liberally in crowding his chambers in the Albany, and his retreat in Dorsetshire, with—not Royal Academy pictures, but with Hogarths—unmistakable, and therefore genuine, Hogarths. Very skilful, indeed, was Mr. Willett in the knowledge of Hogarth's art. Clever contemporaries who lived nearer knew less. The "Puck" Stevens misled Sylvanus Urban (represented in the shape of well-informed John Nichols!). But Mr. Willett, of the Albany and Dorsetshire, knew Hogarth's skill so well, and was so well advised that he bought true Hogarths. "True Hogarths!" We think we hear Mr. Holford, Miss Burdett Coutts, and Frances Lady Waldegrave, exclaim, "Can they be had?" It is said they cannot be had. But we know more than we may tell, and we are not "requested" to misinform our readers.

In the *Athenæum* of last week, we are told, we may read the following:—

We are requested—by those having perfect knowledge on the point—to state that a paragraph which appeared in a contemporary last week, pretending to say who is, and who is not, the owner of such and such literary copyright, is "a tissue of gross blunders." No such literary Bluebook exists as the writer affects to follow; and the elaborate misinformation has apparently been gathered from an entry of the notices given by publishers at the Custom-house with a view to assist the officers in preventing the intrusion of reprints from abroad. Our contemporary seems to have inferred that the notices are given in the names of the copyright proprietors; but such is not the rule of the trade. Publishers give these notices as proprietors, or as agents of the proprietors, indiscriminately. Hence his misunderstanding and misstatement.

Now, "we are requested"—by whom? By—but never mind. This much we are not requested to state, but we state manfully and undeniably, on our own authority, that the book we quoted from *does* exist; and we cite (unrequested), but appealing to them in their official capacities that we have told the truth, the following authorities:—

1. The Commissioners of her Majesty's Customs.
2. The second Adam Smith—viz., John Ramsay M'Culloch, Esq. (the Comptroller of her Majesty's Printing Bills, *alias* Stationery Office).
3. George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode, Printers to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, for [Mr. M'Culloch *alias*] her Majesty's Stationery Office.

We have received the following letter from Messrs. Blackwood:—

Edinburgh, Dec. 8, 1857.
Sir,—In your paper of last week, under the head of "Town and Table Talk," it is asserted by the writer that the error with respect to the proprietorship of Sir Archibald Alison's and Professor Aytoun's copyrights is not his, nor that of the Custom-house authorities, but ours. We have, however, committed no error at all; and must ask you to correct your statement or to publish this note.

In February, 1854, we made a return to the Custom-house of a list of books published by us, including those of the above-mentioned authors. Our return was made in the precise terms of the instructions sent to us by the Custom-house authorities; and in these instructions no request was made to name the actual proprietor of the copyright.

Though Mr. Warren has not thought it necessary to communicate with either you or ourselves on the subject, we feel bound to add that your statement with respect to that gentleman's copyrights is also erroneous.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants, W. BLACKWOOD and SONS.

"Erroneous!" Who made the erroneous returns—the publishers? Ask them? Ask Lord Campbell, who has complained, and who is prompt to detect a tissue of gross blunders, and, of course (we be wicked) did commit one!

THE WEATHER.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 9, 1857.

Day.	Barometer at 9 A.M. 56 feet above level of sea, corrected and reduced.	Highest Temperature.	Lowest Temperature.	Adopted Mean Temperature.	Dry Bulb at 9 A.M.	Wet Bulb at 9 A.M.	Dry Bulb at 3 P.M.	Wet Bulb at 3 P.M.	Direction of Wind.	Amount of Cloud. (0-10)	Rain in Inches.
Dec. 3	29.800	53.5	38.5	48.5	47.8	46.0	52.6	50.4	S.	10	0.000
" 4	29.993	50.4	38.1	46.9	47.3	45.5	50.0	46.4	SW.	0	0.000
" 5	30.166	46.9	33.3	42.6	41.6	39.9	46.9	43.0	SW.	3	0.015
" 6	30.346	50.8	33.6	46.4	49.6	48.4	49.5	46.4	S. SW.	5	0.000
" 7	30.403	54.9	39.0	50.7	52.4	51.5	53.6	51.5	S.	10	0.000
" 8	30.676	45.8	33.1	39.8	35.5	35.4	45.4	43.7	S.	0	0.000
" 9	30.441	45.1	32.8	41.5	42.8	41.5	43.8	41.8	SE. SW.	10	0.000
Means	30.261	49.6	35.5	45.2	45.3	44.0	48.7	46.2			0.015

The range of temperature during the week was 22.1 degrees.

Hear frost covered the ground on the mornings of the 8th and 9th, but the weather has otherwise been extremely mild during the days and evenings. A halo was noticed round the moon on the night of the 5th. Meteors were seen late on the night of the 7th, and faint auroral light was noticed in the north on the evening of the 6th. A ground fog prevailed on the morning of the 8th and on the afternoon of the 9th. A little rain fell on the night of the 6th. The sky has been changeable, but generally clear. The wind was gusty on the night of December 3 and the morning of the 9th. The air has been very damp during the week.

J. BREEN.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE

KEY OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above sea 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOMETER.		WIND.		RAIN in 24 hours. Read at 10 A.M.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum at 10 A.M.	Maximum at 10 P.M.	General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours.	
Dec. 2	30.060	52.2	49.0	89	8	42.7	55.7	SSW.		295 .020
" 3	29.776	52.9	45.6	78	10	49.8	54.8	SSW.		513 .002
" 4	30.036	45.0	41.0	87	0	46.8	51.3	SW. W.		204 .085
" 5	30.239	43.3	41.0	92	0	29.3	49.7	SW. W.		84 .003
" 6	30.406	51.2	49.9	96	10	35.8	53.4	SSW. SW.		256 .003
" 7	30.442	52.1	49.0	90	7	50.5	53.8	SSW. SW.		356 .016
" 8	30.667	39.9	39.4	98	9	39.1	46.8	S. SW.		67 .008

The daily means are obtained from observations made at 6h. and 10h. a.m., and 2h., 6h., and 10h. p.m. on each day, except Sunday, when the first observation is omitted. The corrections for diurnal variation are taken from the Tables of Mr. Glaisher. The "Dew-point" and "Relative Humidity" are calculated, from observations of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, by Dr. Apjohn's Formula and Dalton's Tables of the Tension of Vapour. The movement of the wind is given by a self-recording Robinson's Anemometer, the amount stated for each day being that registered from midnight to midnight.

EXTENSIVE COLLIERY STRIKE IN WALES.—Owing to a reduction in wages, occasioned by the prevailing dullness of trade, some thousands of the colliers of the district of Aberdare have entered upon a strike. They have passed resolutions declaring that they will not accept the reduced wages; that they will not allow the men employed to look after the pumping and ventilation underground to do their work; and that they will not pay the shopkeepers the accounts they now owe them. Serious disturbances are apprehended. Many coal-pits are rapidly filling with water, which it will take weeks, even months, to pump out.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has given £350 to the Enfranchisement Fund of the Licensed Victuallers' School Estate.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Henry Maxwell Self, Esq., to be Senior Magistrate, and Victor Esnouf, Esq., to be Junior Magistrate, for the district of Port Louis, in the Island of Mauritius.

On the 21st ult. an explosion took place in a powder-magazine near Warsaw, by which fourteen Russian soldiers were killed.

The following advertisement appeared in one of the St. Petersburg papers:—"To be sold, portraits of Nana Sahib, the Indian chief, the slayer of the English, at fifteen coopecks each, the proceeds for the relief of the sufferers in the Crimea."

The ship *Howadji*, bound from Boston to Liverpool, with a valuable cargo in cotton and hemp, was struck by lightning on the 3rd, and in the course of a few hours was burnt to the water's edge.

The police of Berlin lately discovered a slaughter-house in which dogs were killed for the purpose of sale as butchers' meat.

The laws passed in the last Session of Parliament relating to "Probates and Letters of Administration (England)," and those relating to "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes (England)," will come into operation on the 11th January next.

In a recent storm on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers sixteen coal-boats and a hundred lives were lost.

In the metropolis, last year's mileage duty on omnibuses, licenses, &c., was £74,270 7s. 10d.; whilst on cabs the total duty was £82,110 9s., including the drivers' and conductors' licenses.

The tide rose to an unusual height in Cork on Wednesday week, flooding many parts of the city.

Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint Burton George Robinson, Esq., to be a member of the Council of the Island of St. Christopher.

The mail steam-packet communication between Hong-Kong and the Philippine Islands will commence in March next.

The number of patients relieved at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, last week, was 2094, of which 665 were new cases.

The steamer *Rainbow* was, on the 21st ult., burnt on the Mississippi and seventy lives were lost.

On the 19th ult. the shock of an earthquake, which endured for several seconds, was felt in Lisbon. Shocks were also felt at various places throughout the whole of Portugal.

On Saturday last the captain and mate of the *Elizabeth*, charged with causing the death of a Spanish sailor, during the voyage from New Calabar, were committed for trial by the Liverpool magistrates—the captain for manslaughter, and the mate for assault.

The section of railway comprised between Munich and Rosenheim—forming the first part of the line which is to unite the capital of Bavaria to Vienna by Salzburg, and to Italy by Innsbruck—has just been opened to the public.

A recent number of the Hartford (U.S.) *Daily Courant* was printed on paper made of ivory shavings.

The Submarine Telegraph in the Mediterranean Sea is now completed between Cagliari and Corfu, Malta being the intermediate station.

Mr. Serjeant Pigott, of the Oxford Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Hereford.

The visitors to the South Kensington Museum last week were:—On Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday (free days), 2697; on Monday and Tuesday (free evenings), 4323; on the three students' days (admission to the public 6d.), 556; one students' evening (Wednesday), 152: total, 7728.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Monday, Aaron Mellor was found guilty of the murder of his wife at Bolton, on the 1st of October last, and sentenced to death.

M. Jagerschmidt, the new French Consul at Odessa, took possession of his post on the 26th ult.

On and after the 3rd of January next there will be special services on Sunday evenings in the nave of Westminster Abbey, commencing at seven o'clock.

Mr. Lushington Phillips, barrister-at-law, of the Manchester and Salford sessions, has been appointed to be a Puisne Judge for the colony of Natal.

The celebrated statuary Rauch died on the 3rd inst. at Dresden. He was born on the 2nd Jan., 1777, at Orosen. His most important work is the monument of Frederick the Great at Berlin.

At the beginning of the present year the public debt of Sardinia, including the British loan, amounted to 690,988,000 f. From this sum 200 millions should be deducted, which are now a source of profit to the State, having been expended in railways and other roads.

The Speaker has appointed Sir Francis Baring, Mr. Walpole, Sir William Somerville, Sir William Heathcote, Mr. W. Miles, and Mr. Bonham Carter, to form the General Committee of Elections for the present Session.

The aggregate number of patients relieved last week at the Metropolitan Free Hospital, Devonshire-square, City, was 1011.

The Rev. J. W. Hallam, Chaplain of the borough prison at Devonport, has just been appointed to the chaplaincy of the gaol at Kington in Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

On Wednesday last the Prerogative Court held its last sitting, its jurisdiction having been transferred to the new Court of Probate, which commences its sittings next term.

The Poles residing in Paris a few days back celebrated, as usual, the anniversary of their last rising in 1830, and Prince Czartoryski pronounced an eloquent harangue on the occasion.

Extensive preparations have been made, both on the Savoy and on the Piedmont side of the Alps, for making the Mont Cenis tunnel.

The *Courier de Paris* has changed its politics, and become what it calls a "Constitutional Opposition" journal.

The strike of the 700 joiners in Manchester, after a protracted struggle of seven or eight weeks, has at length been terminated by arbitration.

A convention signed at Madrid, on the 7th July, by the representatives of the Queens of Spain and Great Britain for the establishment of an international copyright, has been laid before Parliament.

The large cast-iron bridge over the Wear at Sunderland is about to undergo expensive repairs and alterations, under the superintendence of Mr. Robert Stephenson, C.E.

Mr. Corballis, Q.C., law adviser to the Irish Government, has been appointed to the vacant chairmanship of the county of Kilkenny.

The sale of the vast residue of the Thomond estates commenced on Tuesday in the Encumbered Estates Court: 92 lots were offered, six of which only were withdrawn. The amount realised by the sale of the others was about £50,000.

The Rev. John Woollan, of St. John's College, Oxford, has been appointed Head Master of the Cathedral School, Hereford.

Mr. Commissioner Goulburn decided in the Bankruptcy Court, on Friday last, that the amount of the loss occasioned to the Great Northern Railway Company by Redpath's frauds could not be admitted as a claim against the estate.

Miss Jenny Meyer is appointed to fill Johanna Wagner's post in the Royal Theatre of Berlin, at a salary of 4000 thalers a year—about £600 of our money. Fraulein Wagner has, it is said, married, retired into private life, and entirely withdrawn from her professional career.

The Leeds Reformatory School at Adel, near Leeds, in the West Riding of York, has been certified by the Secretary of State as fit to be a Reformatory School.

By an order in Council it is directed that in future the spring assize for the county of Wilts shall be holden at Devizes, and the summer assize at Salisbury, in and for the same county.

Kapelmester Spohr has retired from the service of the Elector of Hesse Cassel, on a pension of fifteen hundred thalers a year. Spohr, though in his seventy-fourth year, is still in good health and spirits.

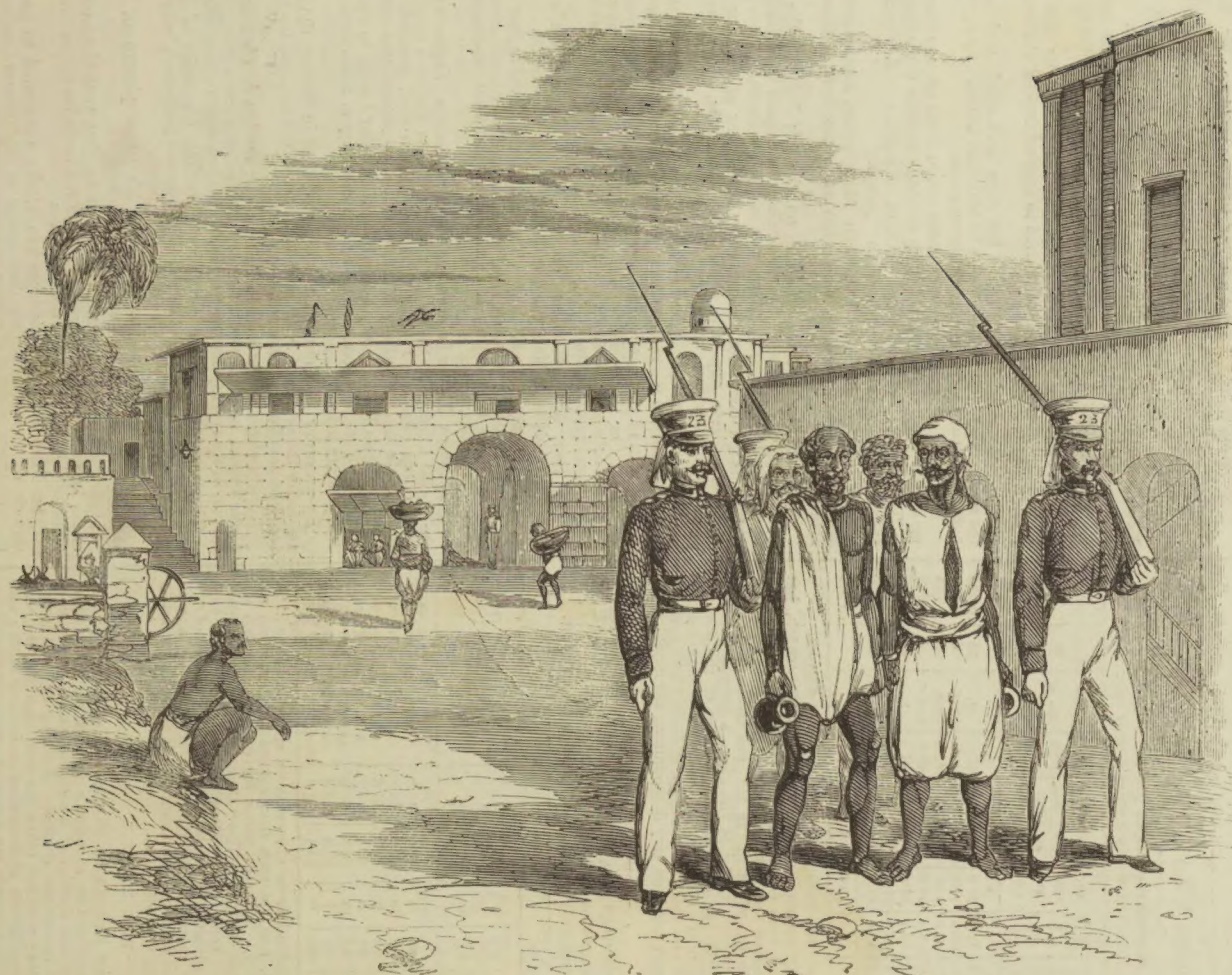
The youngest son of Sir John Bowring, Governor of Hong-Kong, died at Rome on the 16th ult. The deceased gentleman, who was in his thirtieth year, was a Roman Catholic priest.

Mr. David Roberts has presented his great picture of Rome, valued at 1000 guineas, to the Scottish Academy.

Madame Lind-Goldschmidt is about to give, with the assistance of her husband, a grand concert in aid of the funds for the erection of a monument to Handel in the town of Halle.

The Lord Bishop of London has kindly consented to preach a sermon on Sunday morning (to-morrow) at St. Thomas Charterhouse, Goswell-street, in aid of the funds of the Golden-lane Schools.

General Todleben fell from his horse, a few days ago, near the Kursal, at Wiesbaden, and broke his right arm.



CALCUTTA GATE AND MAIN GUARD, FORT WILLIAM: NATIVE PRISONERS UNDER ESCORT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE MADRAS RAILWAY.

THE works of this fine line of railway present a noteworthy instance of the means by which British capital and enterprise have conferred innumerable benefits upon India.

The handsome structure which we have selected for illustration has been built by the Madras Railway Company for carrying their line over the River Poincy, in the classic land of Arcot, in Southern India. The bridge is constructed of granite of a superior description, and consists of fifty-six arches, each 30 feet span. Some difficulty was experienced in constructing the foundations, as nothing was met with but

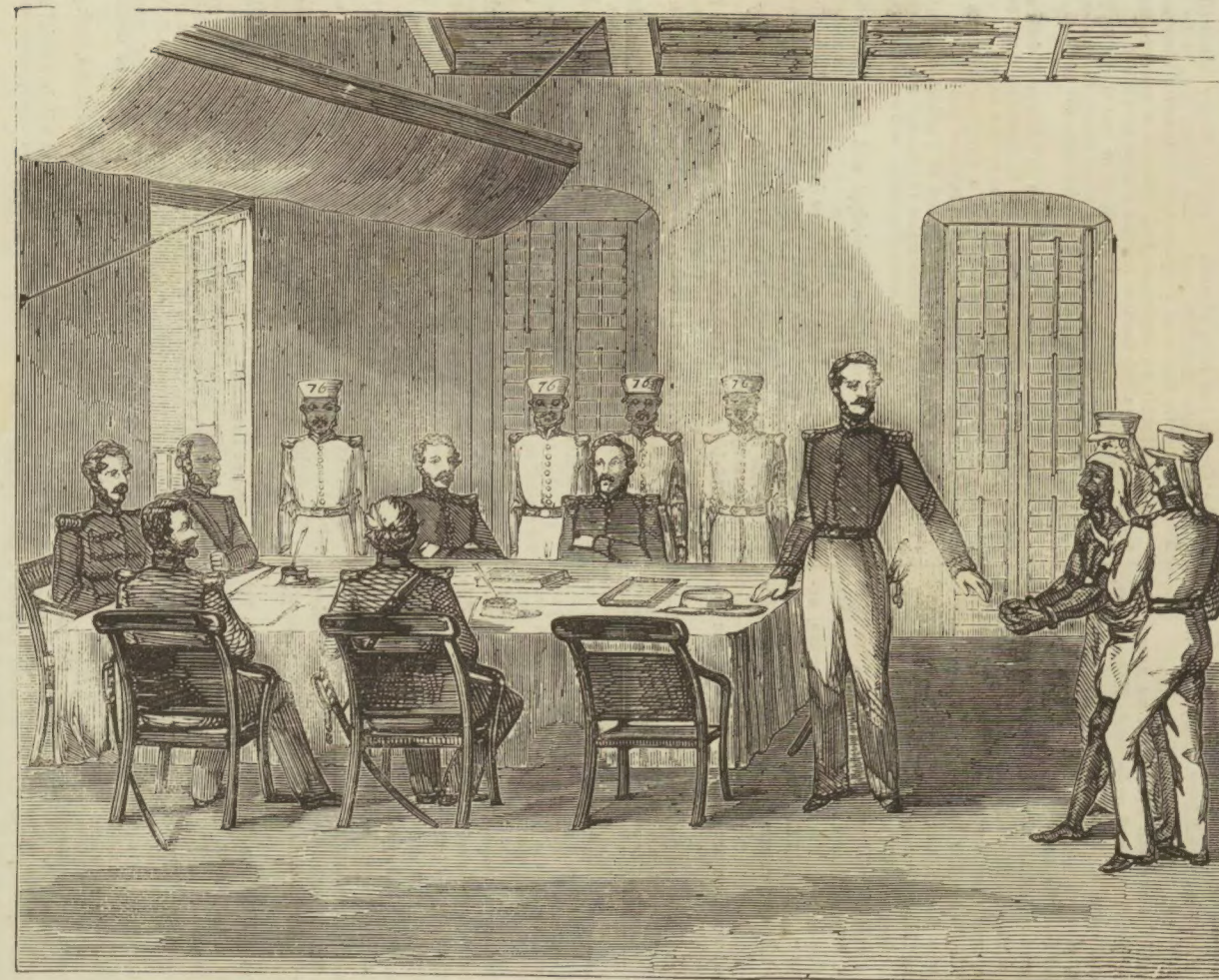
sand or a great depth. To meet this difficulty brick cylinders, or walls, as they are called in India, were sunk about 15 feet below the surface, and on these cylinders the bridge is founded. About three years were spent in constructing the bridge, the total cost of which was about £13,000, including engineering superintendence.

The chief engineer of the line at the time of the construction of this bridge was Mr. George Barclay Bruce, who, we regret to learn, has been compelled to resign his office, which he had held for four years, and to return to England. The officers and servants of the company, in testimony of their high esteem for Mr. Bruce, originated a subscription for that purpose; and, a sum of £515 having been subscribed, a service of plate was purchased, and an address drawn up to accompany its

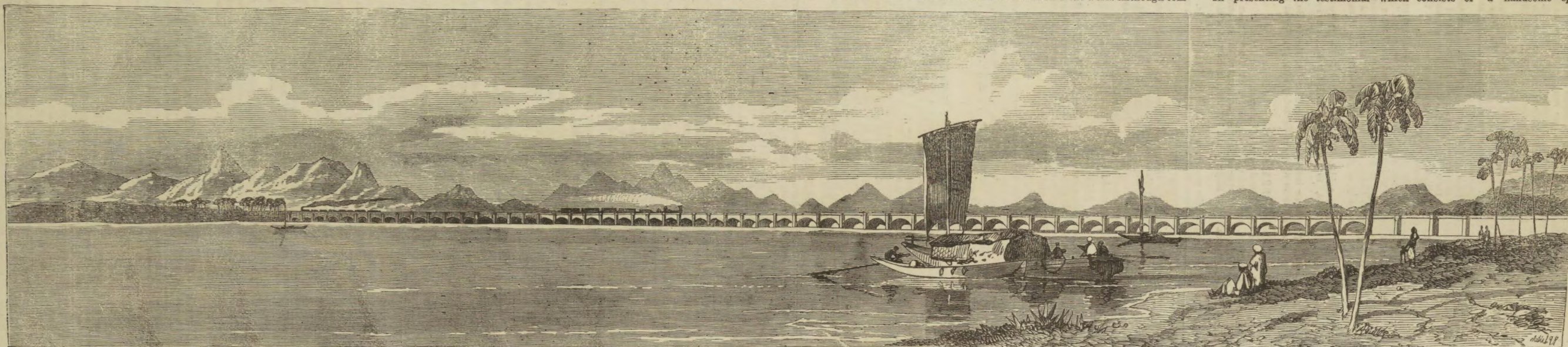
presentation. This took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen-street, on Saturday last. The address stated that the subscribers were anxious to afford some testimony to Mr. Bruce of the high esteem in which they held him, and in token of the very distinguished services rendered by him to their profession. It was to him pre-eminently that the honour belonged of having brought into existence a railway in the Presidency of Madras, which, in the face of great difficulties, was commenced and planned so as to carry out a line from coast to coast, 450 miles in length. The address particularly eulogised the system adopted by Mr. Bruce of combining the duties of contractor with that of engineer, besides which he had organised a system with reference to the payment of labourers, both of which had contributed much to the economical execution of the work. Although com-

pelled to retire from ill health, it had been granted to Mr. Bruce to complete 65 miles of the line for traffic, and to lay down such a plan for future operations as would involve its completion at a cost of little more than half what some other Indian railways were costing. The address concluded with an expression of deep regret at the severance which had taken place between Mr. Bruce and the company, and every wish for his future success and happiness. About seventy gentlemen sat down to a very excellent dinner, most of them members of the engineering profession, among whom we noticed Mr. Walker, Mr. Bidder, Mr. Penn, &c. The general visitors included Mr. Beale, M.P., Mr. J. C. Marshman, Mr. A. Ridgeway, Mr. M'Muir, Mr. T. E. Harrison, Dr. Beattie, &c.

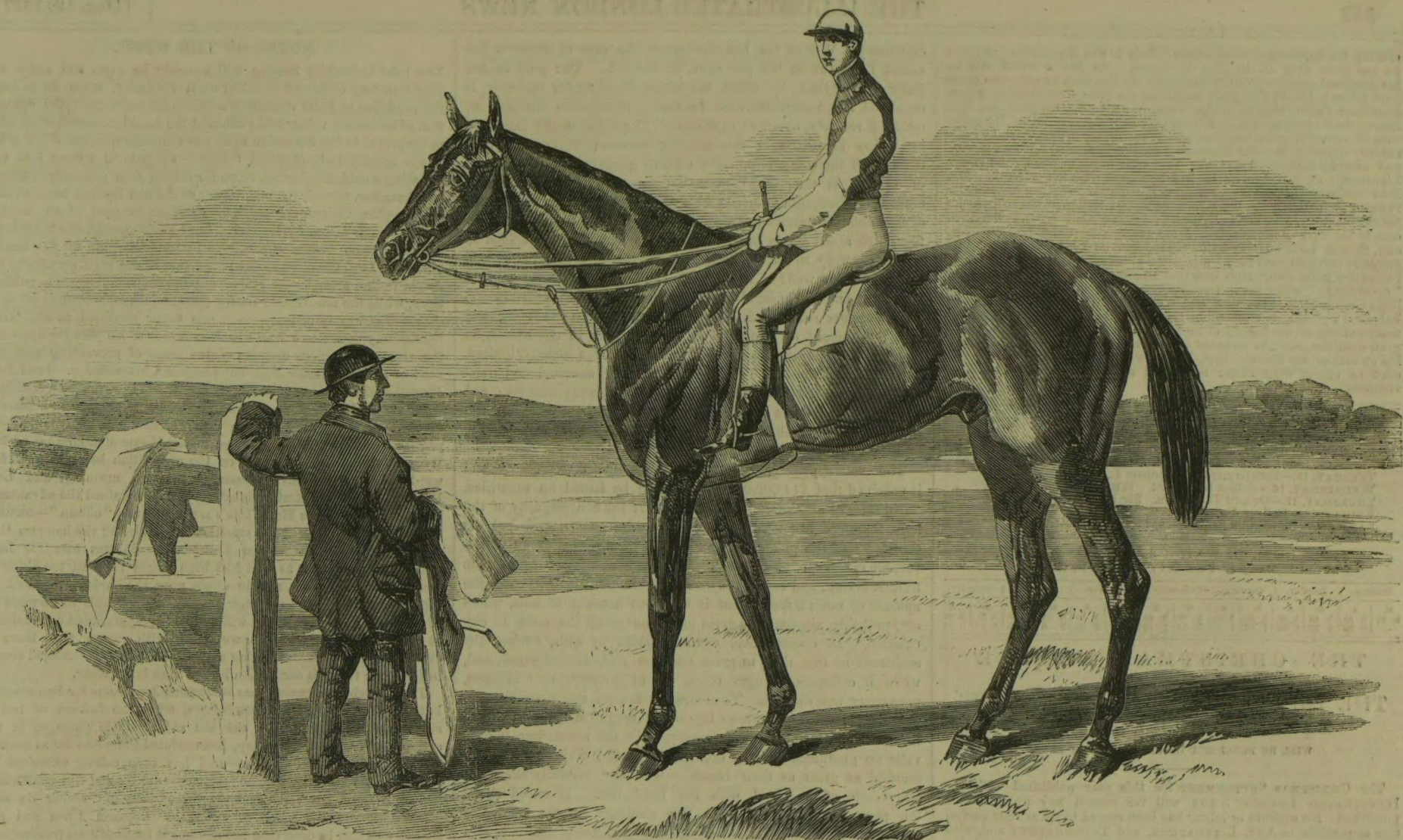
In presenting the testimonial—which consists of a handsome epergne,



TRIAL OF A NATIVE PRISONER BY GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL, AT THE MAIN GUARD, FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA.



VIADUCT ON THE MADRAS RAILWAY ACROSS THE RIVER POINEY, IN ARCOT.



THE CELEBRATED RACE-HORSE "FISHERMAN."

NEW AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

In the Smithfield Club Show, and the Agricultural Machinery exhibited there, this year, we notice the Portable Steam Engine of the Messrs. Tuxford and Sons, of Boston, Lincolnshire; this being the third year this eminent firm have held the first prize of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

The Messrs. Tuxford and Sons were the pioneers of portable farmers' engines and combined thrashing-machines, and, advancing with the spirit of the times, they stand second to none of the great manufacturing firms of the day for simplicity of arrangement, solidity of construction, and exquisite finish of workmanship in the machinery which is sent from their factory. The great extent of the Boston and Skirbeck Ironworks, and their facilities for the manufacture of machinery, it is gratifying to hear, are still progressing. Messrs. Tuxford are now actively engaged in developing a new feature in agricultural mechanics—the Traction Engine, or Steam Horse—a sort of walking leviathan, more powerful than the elephant, yet as manageable as the farmer's best-bred cart-horse. A number of these self-moving machines are in course of construction, or are already completed, for some large sugar plantations in the West Indies. Senor Placido Gener, of Matanzas, Cuba, a large landed proprietor and sugar-planter of that island, who holds the exclusive right for the introduction of the traction-engine into the Spanish West Indies, has been for some time in England superintending the manufacture of several of the engines, which he intends for ploughing, for drawing in cars the produce of the fields to the mill, for carrying the sugar from the mill to a railway some miles distant, and also for working as stationary engines when not otherwise employed.

In appearance the traction-engine has a massiveness which, at first sight, leads to an inference that, from its weight, it is not adapted for travelling across grass-lands or over light soils. The reverse is the fact: the slippers or shoes, with the rails upon them, which are attached to the wheels, and over which the wheels themselves travel, offer to the surface of the land an area, with the whole weight of the engine upon them, twice as great as that presented by the feet of either horses or oxen when walking with their proportionate weight. Hence the simple downward pressure, or sinking into the soil, of the traction-engine will be only one

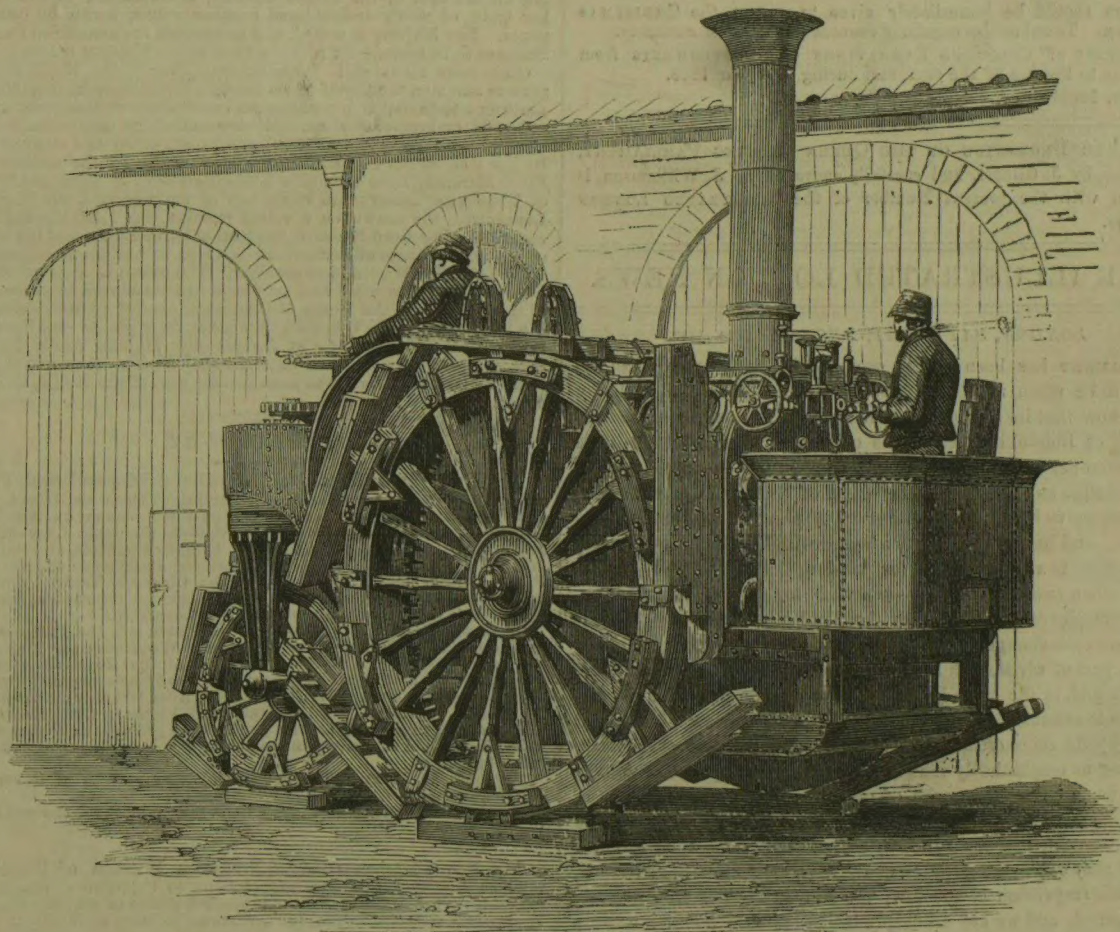
half of that of horses or oxen when any of them are employed for traction purposes. This is an important fact, and must be borne in mind by every one before expressing an opinion as to the fitness or non-adaptation of so massive a machine for agricultural purposes. The very weight itself is essential for obtaining the end desired. With a heavy load behind it, and without a given weight upon the land from the engine as a resistance, the power of the engine would be expended without any forward movement.

The action of the endless railway-wheels is precisely that of walking; the slipper being the foot, its heel first touches the ground, and the toe last; the cycloidal iron at its apex forms the ankle, and the nave of the wheel the knee. The wheel, in its revolution, brings down six of these feet, to which there is but one common knee, the centre or nave.

It is not so much to this endless railway that attention here need be directed, as the credit of its invention belongs to Mr. Boydell; but it is to the mechanical combination by which the Messrs. Tuxford have been able to make these railway-wheels signally successful with steam-power. The difficulty hitherto experienced in making turns when travelling to either side has, in this engine, been surmounted; and the power from the two cylinders can be given off equally to each of the impelling-wheels, or a greater power given to one and a less to the other, or either of the wheels can be detached from the power instantaneously, and without the least shock or jar. This engine weighs altogether about twelve tons, and is consequently a costly affair.

"FISHERMAN."

"FISHERMAN" is a dark brown horse, standing over 16 hands. Has a plain head, wide ears, a very strong neck, with a great deal of muscle on the top of it. Good shoulder and depth of girth. Short body; not very good behind the saddle; high on the rump and drooping towards the tail, which is set on low, straight quarters, light thighs, and his hind legs set right under him; powerful arms, short cannon-bone, long springy pasterns, very sound. He is a very peculiar-looking horse—short, on a high leg, walks with his fore legs wide apart, and not pre-



MESSRS. TUXFORD'S TRACTION-ENGINE, EXHIBITED AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

COURT-MARTIAL AT CALCUTTA.

We are indebted to a Correspondent at Calcutta for the accompanying Sketch of a General Court-martial recently held in Fort William, by which a native was tried for attempting to seduce the sepoy of the 70th Native Infantry in Calcutta from their allegiance, by holding out to them promises of arms, ammunition, and aid from 18,000 of the native population; and that a similar scene might be enacted by them as that performed by their countrymen at Cawnpore. He was, however, reported by one of the sepoys, and brought to justice. He called himself a moulvie, or hafiz, of the regiment, and made that his excuse for being among the Mussulmans; but it appeared he had only recently arrived from Delhi. The prisoner was sentenced to death, which was afterwards commuted to transportation for life.

A few nights after his trial, and when he, doubtless, was persuaded that nothing but death could be his fate, he attempted to escape from the escort when marched to the rear. The night was dark, and, having succeeded in slipping off his handcuffs unobserved, he made a bolt past the escort, but had not gone many steps when he ran his head against a wall and was easily recaptured, since which he has been more heavily ironed.

Many of the prisoners taken are priests among their people: if Mahometans, they are moulvies or hafiz; and, if Hindoos, they are Brahmans. The latter are distinguished by a slight thread which they wear round the neck, and sometimes hung over an ear, as shown in the Sketch of Prisoners under Escort.

EAST INDIA COLLEGE, HAILEYBURY.—The half-yearly examination of the students of this college took place on Monday in the library of the institution. The proceedings were invested with a more than usual degree of interest in consequence of this being the last occasion on which the Directors of the East India Company will be empowered to exercise the functions of examiners. By the provisions of the Act of Parliament, the system of nomination to appointments in the civil service in India is from this time abolished, and the competitive system will henceforth prevail. This circumstance, in connection with the recent momentous events in India, attracted a very large attendance of the friends of the students and of gentlemen who were more or less interested in the welfare of that portion of the British empire. The examinations were presided over by Mr. R. D. Mangles, Chairman of the Court of Directors. The report of the Public Examiner and Inspector of Studies having been read by Mr. Hooper, medals, prizes, and other honourable distinctions, were awarded by the Chairman to the students who had passed their fourth term and were about to leave the College. Mr. Mangles and the Bishop of London having addressed the students, the company retired to the great hall of the College, where a luncheon had been prepared, after partaking of which they withdrew.

THE BANK ISSUES INDEMNITY BILL was printed on Monday. The preamble recites the Act of 1844, and the late correspondence with the Bank. The enacting portion of the bill consists of three sections, of which the first gives validity to the issues of Bank of England notes since the 12th of November last, and all acts done in relation to them, at the same time indemnifying the Governor and Company of the Bank in respect of over issues. The second declares that the Act of 1844 shall be deemed to have been suspended since the 12th of November, so far as it limits the power of the Bank to take securities in its issue department, and further continues the suspension until the expiration of a month after the meeting of Parliament in 1858. But if before the expiration of this term the Governor and Company of the Bank give public notice that they have reduced the minimum rate of interest below the rate of 10 per cent the suspension is to cease. The third section provides that upon or before the expiration of the suspension the excess of issues shall be reduced to the amount which would have been authorised by law if this Act had not been passed; and, subject to the indemnity and discharge hereby given, all the provisions of the said recited Act shall, after such expiration or ceasing, be and remain in full force.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, attended by Sir Richard Airey, K.C.B., and Colonel Clifton, visited Sandhurst College, on Friday week, to attend the examination of the cadets.

THE "CUCKOO" steamer, which sunk off Chatham Dockyard last week, was raised on Sunday.

MISS NIGHTINGALE, says a Vienna letter in the *Hamburg News*, has been in Vienna for some time, and is treated with great distinction. She frequently visits the hospitals.

senting the appearance of an animal likely to win the number of races he has done over all lengths of course. He has a white star in his forehead, and two white coronets. No less than twenty-two races have fallen to his lot this year, including the great French prize, where Saunterer (with Osborne riding some pounds over weight) ran him home. As a two-year old he tried six times without success. Rataplan won 38 out of 62 in two seasons, and Clothworker 30 out of 59, but his score is 45 out of 69. He has been a perfect farmer of Queen's Plates, and already sixteen have been paid over to his owner by the Lords Lieutenant of the counties he has honoured with his presence. Mr. Parr declares that he has an immense dislike, whether training or running, to a sunny sky, and he does not go well next the rails, as he fancies from his long stride that he is getting shut in, and does not care to try with so much spirit. His forte may be said to be two miles, and, though he invariably looks ragged and peaky, a life on the rail seems to suit him, and many a race-lessee who knows he won the day before 300 miles away feels sure that an afternoon's sport is spoiled by "a certainty" when he is seen walking down from the station, with little George Hall at his head, and Wells and his portmanteau in a cab behind. Foreigners stare when they see him, as he quite upsets all their notions of the beauty of an English horse; and, in spite of his good qualities, and the rareness (owing to an odd whim on the part of his owner) of the Heron blood, he is not so likely to be popular at the stud as others with better looks and a less brilliant bead-roll of victories.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 13.—3rd Sunday in Advent. St. Lucy.
MONDAY, 14.—Ember Week. Isaac Walton died, 1683.
TUESDAY, 15.—Reinterment of Napoleon I., 1840.
WEDNESDAY, 16.—Selden born, 1584. Whitfield born, 1714.
THURSDAY, 17.—Oxford Term ends. Sir H. Davy born, 1778.
FRIDAY, 18.—Bollivar died, 1830.
SATURDAY, 19.—Tycho Brahe born, 1546; died, 1601.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 19, 1857.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
10 10	9 33	9 55	1 13	1 35	1 53	2 10
2 30	2 50	3 10	3 30	3 50	4 10	4 30

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, FOR 1857, WILL BE PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 19TH NEXT.

The CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT for this year published with the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will far exceed any number ever published. No expense or labour has been spared to get as near perfection as possible in ART, LITERATURE, and TYPOGRAPHY; and, with the experience of former years now brought to bear at this period, the COLOURED ENGRAVINGS will be superior to any yet published.

CONTENTS:

A Large Print in Colours—The Happy Homes of England: Christmas Holidays.—Drawn by B. Foster.
Also, single Page in Colours—The Christmas Errand.—A. Solomon.
And another Page in Colours—The Unexpected Guest.—J. Tenniel.
A fine Engraving (Whole Page)—Old Christmas with the Bowl and Holly.—J. Gilbert.
The King of the Bean (Page).—E. Morin.
A Real Christmas Holiday (Two-page).—J. Leech.
Christ's Hospital on Christmas Eve (Page).—J. Gilbert.
Christmas Reflections (Page).—S. Read.
Rebuses (Page).—C. H. Bennett.
The Field of the Cloth of Damask.—C. H. Bennett.

This Supplement will also contain the following Christmas Tales and Poems:—

Christmas for Ever.
A Real Christmas Holiday.
Christmas Eve—Fanny's Story.
Christ's Hospital and Christmas Eve.
Christmas Reflections.
The Field of the Cloth of Damask: a Christmas Game.
Musical Crotchets.
Revision of Nuptial Forms.
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A LARGE ENGRAVING OF THE QUEEN OPENING PARLIAMENT, drawn by J. Gilbert, and carefully engraved by J. Williamson, is given with the present Number of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1857.

PARLIAMENT has been chiefly occupied by the Currency, and is likely to be when it meets after Christmas. Even the future of India, now that its resubjugation is assured, is less pressing. To the Bill of Indemnity there is no opposition; but its accompaniment—ten per cent rate of discount, fixed by law—is as contrary to just principle as a fixed price for sugar or bread. Unfortunately, there seems to be a general disregard of principle in treating this subject; and hence, although we agree with Mr. Gladstone that a Committee is a contrivance for wasting labour—employing ten words when two would suffice—we wish for further investigation. The principles on which currency should be regulated—the great instrument of exchange for all—are quite distinct from those of banking, a part of division of labour, and require yet to be ascertained. We are told, in the same breath, by leading statesmen, that the discussion is exhausted and is interminable—that the law which is put down by the commercial convulsions it was to prevent works well, teaching us emphatically that, instead of the principles of currency being as certain as the truths of geometry, they are unknown to those who make laws for the country. Information is needed by our statesmen, and with that information they must be supplied before they can make good laws. By the condition of the currency, and the suspension of the law, the Act of 1844 is irredeemably condemned, and we are all deeply interested that another equally injurious law should not be enacted in its place.

Lord John Russell says that, as far as currency is concerned, the Act of 1844 does not require alteration. His Lordship, though the leader of a party, obviously knows less of the subject than even of

diplomacy. Within the last five years the rate of discount has varied from two to ten per cent, or fivefold. The gold in the Bank of England, by which the whole legal-tender currency is regulated, has varied from six to nearly twenty-two millions, or, taking it roughly, about 240 per cent. The legal tender regulated by it has fluctuated in the same proportion; while the whole business of the country has been steadily progressive, the amount of capital as the rule continually increasing, and the whole bank-note circulation, which is a tolerably correct index to the wants of the public for currency, within the restriction of the law, has only fluctuated about 30 per cent. Can a law which produces effects so utterly contrary to the condition and progress of commerce be said to have worked well? Is the noble Lord aware that the gold on which the amount of legal-tender currency was fixed in 1844 was a mere chance sum which happened then to be in the Bank, and that the amount of provincial bank-notes then in circulation, on which the subsequent issue of all such notes was strictly limited, was unusually small? The limits arbitrarily assumed and fixed by the Act of 1844 were those caused by temporary distress; and the Legislature, while it admitted the necessity of a note calculation and decreed it, actually hampered the growth of a healthy society, by restricting it to a diet adapted only to feebleness and disease.

The avowed principle of the Act is to secure convertibility, and it ordained that £14,000,000 notes should be issued on securities, or, in fact, be absolutely inconvertible. If the convertibility of the note, therefore, had not been secured by its own nature and the confidence of the public, the law would have given us an inconvertible currency. To secure convertibility, and save the multitude from suffering, and commerce from convulsion, the law limits the amount of notes issued; but it takes no account of bills, which are, probably, six times as great in amount as all the notes in circulation. In consequence, credit, inflated by bills, excites the multitude at one time to great exertion and extravagance, and, when it collapses, plunges them, as at present, into idleness, pauperism, and distress. To secure the artisan the payment of a note the negligent law throws him out of employment and deprives him of the means of earning a penny. At the same time it provides no guarantee for the deposits in banks, which at least are fourfold as great as their issues. The law carefully stops the spigot-hole of a barrel with the head out. It would shield the poor from the loss of a few shillings by the failure of an issuing bank, and draws on their devoted heads the bolt of a commercial convulsion. What the nation requires is to prevent the Act of 1844 from being renewed after the holidays—to insist, indeed, that this artificial restriction on the great instrument of exchange, determined by what chanced to be its amount at a period of comparative feebleness and decay, should be put an end to. Its evils, like those of the Corn-law—to which, in principle, it is essentially allied, for it is the embodiment and enforcement of a great error—have become so palpable and enormous that society can no longer endure them. Like other infatuated parents, however, our legislators, deeply in love with their rickety and deformed offspring, are blind to its defects. The public see and feel them.

THE LARGE PRINT.—THE QUEEN OPENING PARLIAMENT.

Two Sessions having elapsed without her Majesty taking part personally in this ceremony, and favoured by the best of Queen's weather, the city of Westminster, and its new Palace more especially, were a scene of gay activity on Thursday week. The interior of the House of Lords presented a spectacle of surpassing brilliancy. The whole of the benches reserved for the Peers in the body of the House were occupied, and the varied-coloured dresses of the fair occupants exhibited the usual pleasing *coup-d'œil* of parterres of flowers. The attendance of Peers was unusually large, and the space allotted to the diplomatic body proved quite inadequate.

There is a pause, and the silence of expectation. At two there is heard a flourish of trumpets, the distant strains of the National Anthem. Doors open wide, and the King-at-Arms and heralds, in quaint garbs and tabards, with their armorial bearings of all kinds, pass; Gold Sticks and Silver Sticks, great officers of the household, and Lords in Waiting march by the foot of the throne, and bow in respectful homage as they pass the seat of Royalty; and then her Majesty, leaning on the arm of the Prince Consort, is conducted to the throne, her train of richly-embroidered crimson velvet borne by bedizened pages. Her Majesty is seated, and commands the assembled Peers and Peersesses to be seated—for all have risen as her Majesty entered.

Once more all is still. The Deputy-Usher of the Black Rod has gone to summon the Commons to hear the Royal Speech. Her Majesty, wearing a tiara and rich necklace and stomacher of diamonds, a white and gold embroidered skirt, and surrounded by her crimson Royal robes of state, embroidered with gold, is seated on the chair of state. By her side, on her left, sits the Prince Consort, in the uniform of a Field-Marshal; Lord Granville holds the sword of state, the Marquis of Winchester the crimson velvet cap of maintenance, the Marquis of Lansdowne the crown on a velvet cushion, the Lord Chancellor the great seal. The Lord Steward, the Earl of St. Germans, has his wand of office; the Duchess of Sutherland is close to her Royal mistress, and other Ladies in Waiting are near her. The scene is a grand and imposing one. Some noise and confusion are occasioned by the entrance of the members of the House of Commons, headed by the Speaker, into the Royal presence. When all have taken their places—the Speaker in his robes of office standing at the bar—her Majesty reads, distinctly and impressively, and with that silvery bell-like voice which makes every syllable audible in the most distant part of the House, the Royal Speech.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Prince Consort, with the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and the Princesses Helena, Louisa, and Beatrice, left Windsor at half-past ten o'clock on Monday, for Osborne, attended by the Duchess of Atholl, the Hon. Lucy M. Kerr, Major-General the Hon. Charles Grey, Captain Du Platt, and the Master of the Household. The Royal party arrived at Osborne at two o'clock. Prince Alfred met her Majesty at the Clarence Yard, Gosport, and crossed over to Osborne. His Royal Highness returned again in the afternoon to Alverbank, attended by Lieut. Cowell, R.E.

On Tuesday the Queen and the Prince Consort and the Princess Royal walked in the grounds of Osborne; and on Wednesday her Majesty and the Prince enjoyed a drive in the vicinity of the Royal demesne. The Princess Royal on the same day paid a visit to Winchester Cathedral.

Previously to the departure of the Court from Windsor on Saturday the Earl of St. Germans, Lord Steward, and Viscount Castlereagh, Comptroller of the Household, had an audience, to present the Addresses from both Houses of Parliament, in answer to her Majesty's gracious Speech from the throne.

The Prince of Wales will join his illustrious parents at Osborne this day (Saturday). The Court is expected to return to Windsor at the latter end of next week.

His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia left town on Thursday evening, and, crossing to Calais in the mail-packet named after his Royal Highness, proceeded thence to Berlin. His Royal Highness is expected to pass the Christmas holidays at Windsor.

His Excellency the Ambassador of France and the Countess de Persigny have left town on a visit to the Baron and Baroness Meyer de Rothschild, at Mentmore, Bucks.

A marriage is on the tapis between the Hon. Gerald H. Ponsonby, brother of the Earl of Bessborough, and Lady Maria Coventry, sister of the Earl of Coventry.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE brief Indemnity Session will speedily be over, and again will Parliamentary eloquence be lulled until February, when, let us hope, the condition of India will afford a theme for more than the celebration of individual valour and skill, and the Legislature will be enabled to congratulate the Sovereign upon the complete triumph of her arms. It was scarcely to be expected that the exceptional sitting just terminating would afford much scope for debate of a generally interesting character, though the importance of the one leading topic of discussion—the Currency—cannot be equalled by that of any subject likely to come before Parliament. Lord Ellenborough has made himself heard upon Indian affairs, and in condemnation of the insults offered by Lord Canning, at the instigation of the civil service, to the Anglo-Indian press, under pretext of putting down dangerous publications, while the abominable native press, which is composed of equal shares of disloyalty and impurity, was never punished at all. Lord Shaftesbury delivered a long speech in favour of his plan for depriving the clergy in populous districts of the power of preventing such services as those at Exeter Hall, but postponed his measure. Lord John Russell again resumes, formally, the charge of the Hebrew question.

Sir Henry Havelock receives at the hands of the nation a pension of £1000 a year. It has been nobly earned, and many will sympathise with the feelings expressed in the House of Commons by Mr. White (member for Plymouth) on the proposition being brought forward. He inadequately represented his own meaning, and Lord Palmerston, the adroitest of debaters, of course gained the advantage; but outside the House Mr. White's sentiment will "obtain"—namely, that Sir Henry's reward is a small one, considering the honours that were lavished upon Crimean blunderers. It was easy for Lord Palmerston to answer as if it had been urged that all the Crimean victories were blunders, and to dilate upon the hardships created by the incapacity of his own former colleagues; but this was a mere bit of Parliamentary tact, which will scarcely be appreciated out of doors. It is right to add, though we do so with regret, that there is evidently a less generous feeling manifested by the "privileged class" in the army towards our Indian heroes than is befitting.

The French Government has suspended *La Presse* for two months, but has not insulted the conductors, after the fashion of Indian autocracy. It has pointed out the objectionable passages in the article that occasioned the step, has confuted them—so far as counter assertion may be held to do so—and has then calmly exercised its strength. At least the French journalists are treated like gentlemen; and M. Billault has not taken the opportunity of "seeing no solid ground for drawing a line of difference" between them and any fellows who may be deserving imprisonment for licentious publications. *La Presse* has been punished for a discussion whether the Republican representatives should take the oath of allegiance to a dynasty which they will endeavour to subvert. Some of these gentlemen consider that they are only going through a form; others find a principle involved. Casuists here have, in stormy times, held that a man's first duty is to his country, and that no oath to do what he believes a wrong thing can override it, or be binding; but France is, just now, in no such desperate need of these half-dozen Republicans that they are absolutely compelled to violate any conscientious feelings they may have on the oaths question.

A large meeting upon the subject of Indian Reform took place on Wednesday night. The subject was, unfortunately, not intrusted to the sort of men in whom the country has much confidence. Neither the stars of the Peace party on one side, nor politicians like Lord Clanricarde on the other, are likely to lead public opinion upon any topic. But the late editor of the *Friend of India*, one of the victims of the Indian civil authorities, bore invaluable testimony to the mischievousness of the existing system, and his address was the best feature of the evening. It is not surprising that Mr. Ernest Jones was able to storm such a platform, and pledge the meeting to reform here as a necessary prelude to the amelioration of India.

Mr. Justice Cresswell has given in the important case of "Brook v. Brook" the judgment which we ventured to anticipate would result from his consideration of the case; but Vice-Chancellor Stuart, having made his acknowledgments of the valuable aid of his learned assessor, took time to give his own decision on the question. The former Judge holds that the plan which has been recommended by the association for altering the law of marriage with the sister of a deceased wife is unavailing so far as England is concerned. English subjects may go away to countries where such unions are legal, and, being domiciled there, may take advantage of the *lex loci*, but here the foreign marriage, being opposed to British law, is void. The decision, coming as it does from one of the best Judges on the bench, is important, and will probably have the effect of arousing the opponents of the present law to new efforts. The singularly false step made upon the last occasion of legislating, when, by deciding that such marriages, if contracted before a certain date, should be valid, Parliament threw overboard all religious objections to such matches, has, under pretext of settling the subject, completely unsettled the mind of the people, especially of the humbler class, in which such unions are frequent. What the Senate, including the Bishops, decided to be harmless at one date cannot, in these people's mind, be created into a crime by mere chronology.

Still, while we write, the *Leviathan* has not taken water; but steady progress is made, and Mr. Brunel's victory seems assured. The dense and remarkable fog of Tuesday interfered with operations, and time was thus lost; and moreover, there is an accession of difficulty with the machinery, the further the monster is removed from the hydraulic-presses. Her own tendency to occasional starts is also objectionable, and, in the not infrequent case of one end making more progress than the other, the cradles twist, and extra power has to be laid on. But all who watch the process share the hopefulness of Mr. Brunel. The Princess Royal has visited the yard, and would have gone on board, had the engineers deemed it prudent; but to their objections her Royal Highness gracefully deferred. We will be bound that no such want of interest is exhibited at the Royal table, in reference to the grandest mechanical feat ever attempted, as was proved to have been manifested by a distinguished nobleman the other day. Hearing that one end of the ship had advanced five feet, while the other was stationary, he exclaimed, "Why, then, she must have stretched!" He has never taken the trouble to notice that she was not being launched in the ordinary way. Perhaps it was his Lordship who, glass in eye, has been immortalised by Mr. John Leech, for having carefully inspected a complicated agricultural machine at the 1851 Exhibition, and finally remarked, "Very ingenious—very—and how many tunes does it play?"

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has graciously condescended to allow Miss Susan Durant (our talented English sculptress) the honour of submitting a bust which he has just completed of Toussein Pacha, the young Egyptian Prince, who was presented to her Majesty by Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore in October last.

Lord and Lady John Russell have arrived at Farrance's Hotel, Belgravia, from Woburn Abbey.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Explanations and replications were interchanged at much length between the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, and other noble Lords, respecting certain charges urged during the debate on the first night of the Session against the Board of Control.

SIR HENRY HAVELOCK.

A message from the Crown, suggesting the grant of a pension to General Havelock, was brought up by Earl GRANVILLE, and ordered to stand for consideration the next day.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, in moving for the returns of which he had given notice, described the proceedings of the Calcutta Government with regard to the Arms Act, and the statute restricting the liberty of the press in India, and censured the policy of the Governor-General in relation to those enactments. He condemned the principle on which Lord Canning had acted of treating Europeans and natives on a footing of equality. Such assimilation of the races was, he maintained, under present circumstances, nothing short of fatuity.

Earl GRANVILLE replied, vindicating the course adopted by Lord Canning. The Arms Act had been framed in the usual manner of such enactments, and all Europeans could obtain licenses to carry weapons. With regard to the press, he observed that the native journals had obeyed the law without resistance; while the English papers in India, by their vehemence of language towards the Government, proved how requisite it was to include them also in the restrictive measure.

After some further discussion, in which Earl Grey, the Marquis of Clanricarde, and the Earl of Malmesbury took part, the motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

Her Majesty's gracious answer to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on the opening of the Session was brought up by Lord Castlerosse, and ordered to be entered on the journals of the House.

THE ENGLISH ENGINEERS AT NAPLES.

In reply to Mr. M. Milnes, Lord PALMERSTON stated that despatches had arrived on Saturday last which to some extent modified the opinion he had expressed on the previous evening respecting the treatment of the two engineers of the *Cagliari* who were in prison in Naples. These men had been subjected, as it now appeared, to considerable hard usage, but were now treated better, and measures had been taken by the Government to secure for them a fair and open trial, with the assistance of able counsel to conduct their defence.

GENERAL HAVELOCK.

Lord PALMERSTON brought up a message from her Majesty, inviting the House to recognise the services of Sir H. Havelock by voting him a pension of £1000 per annum. The message was ordered to be taken into consideration on Tuesday evening.

THE BANK ISSUES INDEMNITY BILL.

The second reading of the Bank Issues Indemnity Bill having been moved by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. GLADSTONE objected to the form of the bill, which gave a prospective indemnity to the members of a public body who were not officially responsible to the House. He suggested that the indemnity should be restricted to such acts as were sanctioned by the Commissioners of the Treasury, through whose intervention the constitutional principle of Parliamentary responsibility would be preserved intact. Mr. Gladstone also inquired how the profits accruing from the surplus issue of notes were to be appropriated; and, if the gains were to be considered public money, on what basis they should be computed?

Sir H. WILLUGHBY wished to know if there was any truth in the report that certain joint-stock banks and discount-houses had combined to enforce from the Government a relaxation of the Bank Act?

After some remarks from Mr. Cayley and Mr. Coningham, Mr. MALINS referred to the warnings he had himself given in the last Session as to the approach of a commercial crisis, and blamed the Government for not having armed themselves beforehand with power to relax the law in case of necessity. The Act of 1844 had, he believed, worked nothing but evil, and should be abolished at once.

Mr. CROSSLY recommended a change in the law by introducing a degree of elasticity as to the power of issuing bank-notes.

Mr. PHILIPS regretted that the law had been broken through, acquitting the Government of having precipitately interposed. Reviewing the general system of currency, he enforced the expediency of establishing a single source of issue for the paper circulation, which should be made current in all parts of the United Kingdom, based upon a sufficient metallic reserve, and guaranteed by a pledge of the national credit for their constant convertibility.

Mr. NEWDEGATE having spoken, Mr. BUCHANAN defended his constituents in Glasgow and the Chamber of Commerce in that city from the charge of holding wild and visionary opinions on the subject of currency. The Bank Act, he contended, should be deprived of its rigidity, and a relaxing power, to be applied in times of pressure, ought to be vested in the Directors of the Bank of England.

Mr. KIRK argued that, after two suspensions, the Act of 1844 could not be longer maintained. The legislative restriction on note issues had proved a total failure, and some better system must be introduced to save the country from the recurrence of monetary crises.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in the course of a general reply, noticed various points which had been raised during the debate, and controverted in some detail the assertion that by sanctioning the issue of an extra number of notes the Government had either interfered with the value of property, or depreciated the paper currency. He knew nothing of the alleged capitalist conspiracy against the Bank of England, and did not believe the rumour to that effect.

Mr. SROONER repeated some of the arguments he had formerly advanced in favour of an issue of national paper.

Mr. INGRAM thought that if the limit had been fixed at eight instead of ten per cent it would have been quite high enough. If they wished to draw more gold into the Bank of England they ought to legalise the issue of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 of £1-notes. He hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give these two suggestions his best consideration, and take the necessary steps for their adoption.

The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed the following evening.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

PENSION TO GENERAL HAVELOCK.

On the motion that her Majesty's gracious message respecting the pension to General Havelock should be taken into consideration,

Earl GRANVILLE briefly recounted the services rendered by that gallant officer, in the course of his advance from Allahabad to Cawnpore and Lucknow, and moved a resolution expressing the full concurrence of the House in the proposal to confer upon him a pension of £1000 per annum. The Earl of DERBY cordially seconded the motion, which was agreed to *nem. dis.*

THE EXETER-HALL SERVICES.

The Earl of SHAFFESBURY, on the motion for the second reading of the Public Worship Bill, explained the object for which it was introduced. The measure was intended to remove some disabilities that were left untouched by the Act of 1855, and in consequence of which the proposed performance of religious services in Exeter Hall had been compulsorily abandoned, under the prohibition of the Rector of the parish. He had no wish to interfere with the parochial system, but proposed that in parishes where the population exceeded 2000 this inhibitive authority should be exercised by the Incumbent only under the sanction of the Bishop of the diocese. As he had, however, promised to postpone the bill, he noble Earl declared that he submitted with much regret to a delay which he felt to be equivalent to defeat, and moved that the bill should be read a second time that day six weeks.

Some discussion of an explanatory character followed, in which the Earl of Derby, the Bishop of St. David's, and the Bishop of London, took part. The motion was then agreed to, and the bill for second reading six weeks hence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Replying to Sir J. Pakington, Mr. V. SMITH stated that the memorial drawn up by some inhabitants of Calcutta, incriminating Lord Canning, could not be included among the papers to be laid on the table by the Government, because the document had been transmitted, irregularly, to the Prime Minister direct, instead of being sent in the first place to the Governor-General.

In answer to Mr. Young, Mr. BARING said that the Admiralty found no cause for complaint as to the manner in which the Australian mail-packet service was executed. The company had promised to put a supplemental steamer on the line, to meet the occurrence of casualties such as had happened to the *Emeu*.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

Mr. HEADLAM moved a resolution setting forth that the unlimited liability of shareholders in joint-stock banks gives rise to a species of credit injurious to the interests of the public, and that the present law, enforcing the adoption of this principle, requires alteration. The hon. member explained the motive on which the privilege of limited liability had been accorded to partnerships engaged in all other businesses except banking. There was, he contended, no reason for maintaining this exception, and, as the principle of limitation had worked well in other departments of trade, it was advisable to extend its operation, under the fitting conditions, to firms engaged in banking transactions. So long as the liability of shareholders continued to be unlimited the most frightful calamities were consequent upon the failure of joint-stock banks, which there was no possibility of averting, except by an alteration of the law.

The motion was seconded by Mr. JOSEPH EWART.

Mr. COWAN moved an amendment directly negating the resolution.

He believed that the principle of limited liability was fraught with danger to credit, and most strongly objected to extend it to the joint-stock banks.

Mr. COLLIER could not accept the resolution as indicating a positive opinion condemnatory of unlimited liability, but was ready to relax the present law so far as to give a permissive sanction to the establishment of banks on the principle of limitation.

The motion was supported by Mr. J. Ewart and Mr. Wyld. Mr. Locke King and Mr. Weguelin briefly opposed it.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the question whether the shareholders of joint-stock banks should be allowed to participate in the privilege of limited liability was open to consideration. He could not, however, entertain a resolution so directly condemning the present law. Under these circumstances he suggested that the subject should be referred to the Select Committee on the Bank Acts, whose appointment it was his intention to propose on Friday evening.

Mr. MALINS supported the motion. Mr. T. HANKEY proposed to modify the resolution so as to leave the adoption of the limited liability principle optional with the shareholders of joint-stock banks.

After a few words from Mr. BUCHANAN, and a reply from Mr. HEADLAM,

The original motion was then put, and negatived without a division. The House then divided on the amendment proposed by Mr. Hankey. There appeared—Ayes, 47; Noes, 118: Majority against the motion, 71.

THE BEVERLEY ELECTION.—PROSECUTION OF MR. GLOVER.

On the motion of Mr. J. A. SMITH a resolution was agreed to that the Attorney-General should be ordered to prosecute Mr. E. A. Glover with respect to certain transactions connected with the Beverley Election Committee.

On the motion of Colonel FRENCH the issue of a writ for the county of Mayo was agreed to.

PENSION TO GENERAL SIR H. HAVELOCK.

The House having gone into Committee, her Majesty's gracious message in reference to the pension which it was proposed to grant to Sir H. Havelock was read from the chair.

Lord PALMERSTON rose to move a resolution granting £1000 a year to General Havelock. India, he observed, had been truly said to be fertile in heroes, the fact being that it was fertile in the events which furnished opportunities for the display of heroism. In most of these events Sir H. Havelock had lately taken a distinguished part, in company with many gallant comrades, whose exploits the noble Lord proceeded to describe, adding to the names of Sir A. Wilson, Sir J. Outram, and Sir J. Lawrence, among the surviving saviours of India, those of Neill, Nicholson, Wheeler, and others who had perished in the service of their country.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, in seconding the motion, paid an emphatic tribute of eulogy to the achievements of Sir H. Havelock and Sir A. Wilson, whose names he was assured the public would hold in equal honour, though the Government was debased by technical regulations from officially recognising the merits of the latter officer, as belonging to the Company's service. While acknowledging the gallantry of the commanders, he trusted that the bravery and endurance of the soldiers would not be left unrewarded.

Mr. BRISCOE suggested that the pension to be bestowed on Sir H. Havelock should be continued to the next successor to his title.

Mr. WHITE maintained that the amount of the proposed pension was utterly inadequate to recompense the services performed by General Havelock. A patrician General returning from the Crimean disasters would, he believed, have been more liberally rewarded.

Lord PALMERSTON could not allow the stigma upon the bravery of the Crimean army to pass unrebuked, and dwelt upon the many proofs of gallantry displayed in that memorable war.

The resolution was then agreed to unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, a formal vote granting a supply to the Crown was passed, after a brief conversation.

THE BANK ISSUES INDEMNITY BILL.

This bill went through Committee, after some discussion, and was ordered to be read a third time on Wednesday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—WEDNESDAY.

THE BANK ISSUES INDEMNITY BILL.

This bill, having been brought up from the Lower House, was read a first time on the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

SIR H. HAVELOCK'S PENSION.

The resolution passed in Committee on the previous evening for granting a pension to Sir H. Havelock was reported to the House by Mr. FITZROY, and agreed to after some conversation. Leave was then given to bring in a bill giving effect to that resolution. The bill was subsequently brought in and read a first time.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Replying to Sir H. Willoughby, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER intimated the probability of an application to Parliament for funds to assist the East India Company in their pending emergencies. He did not, however, expect, from the present position of circumstances, that this demand would assume any very serious dimensions.

THE BANK ISSUES INDEMNITY BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of this bill a brief discussion arose, in the course of which some general remarks on the question connected with paper currency, the monetary crisis, and the Bank Charter were offered by Sir H. Willoughby, Mr. Vance, Mr. J. H. Phillips, Mr. Adams, and other hon. members.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER having reiterated the explanations he had already more than once given upon these subjects, the bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Bank Issues Indemnity Bill was read a second time, upon the understanding that a discussion would be taken on the third reading, to be moved on the following evening.

REAL ESTATE.—Lord St. LEONARDS brought in a bill (read a first time) to simplify the transfer of real estate.

THE MUTINY IN INDIA.

Viscount MELVILLE said it was reported to have been well known in India before the outbreak took place that a mutiny was organised; and it was also asserted that letters had been sent to the Indian Government by indigo merchants and others, giving such information as ought to have induced the authorities to have taken precautionary measures. The Government had, however, entirely ignored all the information they had received, and had exhibited an apathy and supineness which could not be too strongly condemned. He thought that they ought to be informed by Ministers whether the authorities at Calcutta had made any communication to the Home Government in reference to any letters of warning which they had received.

Earl GRANVILLE was understood to say that he was unable at present to answer the question. At that moment he thought it was improper to enter into such a question; but as soon as the mutiny was entirely suppressed it would be the duty of the Government to institute a full inquiry into the whole subject.

The Earl of DERBY thought the question of great importance, but admitted that that was not the proper time to discuss it. He concurred with Earl Granville that, as soon as the mutiny was over, it would be the duty of Parliament to inquire whether there had been any neglect of the Home Government, or whether any measures could have been taken to prevent the insurrection in India.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL, in reply to Mr. Bowyer, stated that the new bell of Westminster was to be ready before the 19th February.

COMMITTEE ON THE BANK CHARTER.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice, in the event of the House agreeing to the motion that will be before it to-morrow evening, to move that it be an instruction to the Committee to inquire into the cause of the recent commercial distress; how far it could be remedied in future; and also into the issue of bank-notes.

Mr. DISRAELI gave notice of his intention to move the following instruction to the Committee as an amendment to the motion of the right hon. gentleman, "That in the opinion of this House no further inquiry is necessary in regard to the operation of the Bank Act of 1844."

THE SAVINGS BANKS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Collins, said it was his intention in the present Session to move the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Savings Banks. It was not his intention to introduce a bill upon the subject; at all events, until that inquiry had terminated.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. HEADLAM gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to abolish the distinction in the existing laws between joint-stock banks and other joint-stock companies.

THE PASSAGE OF TROOPS VIA EGYPT TO INDIA.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Sir J. Pakington, said it was true that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe had obtained a firman from the Turkish Government granting permission for the passage of British troops through Egypt to India, but it was considered by her Majesty's Government that the difficulties and delays which such a route would create would more than counterbalance the advantages which would be obtained from the adoption of such a plan for the transport of troops. The Emperor of the French had also very kindly communicated his assent to the passage of our troops through his territory; but her Majesty's Government, on consideration, were of opinion that very serious difficulties would also

stand in the way of that route, and that therefore it was not considered advisable to adopt it.

THE INDIAN MUTINY.

Mr. V. SMITH, in reply to a question from Mr. Adderley, stated that Sir George Grey, Governor of the Cape, had made every effort to forward assistance to the authorities in India as soon as he was informed of the mutinies that had taken place—that he had sent two regiments of infantry and some companies of artillery, £60,000 in specie, and 1000 cavalry horses, 500 of which were well trained. Since that time Sir G. Grey had been instructed to send out six more regiments, and had no doubt done so.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Mr. COWPER, in answer to Mr. Garnett, said the Home Office had appointed a special inspector for reformatory schools, and it appeared desirable that the vote of Parliament should be distributed through a single department.

ADMISSION OF JEWS TO PARLIAMENT.

On the motion of Lord J. RUSSELL, the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, and also to consider the disabilities affecting her Majesty's Jewish subjects.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in his bill, the object of which was, not to remove the words "on the true faith of a Christian" from the oath taken by members generally, but to provide that in the case of a member of the Jewish persuasion being returned those words be excluded from the oath to be administered to him.

Sir F. THESIGER said that he would not oppose the introduction of the bill, as it had been arranged that it should not go further than the first reading before the holidays. He would then give his most determined opposition to it.

After some further conversation the noble Lord obtained leave to introduce his bill.

GENERAL HAVELOCK'S ANNUITY BILL.

On the order of the day for the second reading of this bill a long discussion ensued, in which Sir C. Napier, Mr. F. O'Brien, Sir H. Verney, Mr. Clay, and other hon. members took part, the general feeling expressed being a desire that the pension to the gallant General should be extended so as to make it reversionable to another life. The bill was then read a second time.

THE OATHS BILL.

This bill having been brought in was read a first time, and ordered for a second reading on the 8th of February.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Mr. COWPER brought in the Public Health Act (1848) Amendment Bill, which was read a first time.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

LAUNCHING THE "LEVIATHAN."—The work at the launch was resumed early on Monday morning. Success, however, was again but small; no move took place till one o'clock, and the result of the day's operations was a progress of ten feet seven inches at the bow, and three feet and a quarter at the stern. The bow has evinced all through an inclination to outstrip the stern; and hence has arisen more than half the difficulty. The owners became liable by her not being out of the yard on Monday to pay £1000, and a similar sum for every month she may remain in the yard. Trotman's patent anchors began on Monday to give way under the strain, and had to be backed by Admiralty anchors. Progress was stopped on Tuesday by the dense fog which overspread London, and rendered it impossible to see in the dockyard. Before the fog came on, all the pressure that could be got was applied to the vessel without effect, but the pressure having been removed entirely, for the purpose of applying screw-jacks, the monster gave a sudden slip of itself for a distance of two feet, and two or three other short slips were made before the fog came, and rendered further operations impossible. The total distance accomplished this day was four feet nine inches forward, and four feet two inches aft. No attempt was made on Wednesday to proceed with the launch, the whole of the day being occupied in making arrangements for a renewed attempt, with a greatly increased power, upon an early occasion. Since the commencement of operations the vessel, up to Tuesday evening, has been moved 108 feet 4 inches at the fore-cradle.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON at BETHNAL-GREEN.—On Wednesday evening a scene of a very remarkable character was witnessed in the swarming neighbourhood of Bethnal-green. The Bishop of London had issued a notice stating that he had heard much of the spiritual wants of that neighbourhood, and especially of the poorer classes, and that he was desirous of meeting and preaching to them on subjects connected with their present welfare and future happiness. St. Matthias Church, which is situated in the most densely populated and pauperised district of the parish, was selected as the place at which the Bishop had to deliver his address, and long before eight o'clock, the time appointed for the commencement of the service, the spacious church was densely crowded by an auditory drawn exclusively from the toiling and suffering classes which abound in the neighbourhood. Large numbers, unable to find accommodation, stood in groups outside conversing with one another on the new dispositions and tendencies of the Church. The Bishop entered the church at a few minutes before eight o'clock, and made his way with great difficulty through the dense mass of people to the vestry-room. The congregation rose in a body to receive and welcome him. Having put on his episcopal robes, he took his seat at the communion-table, and the ordinary service was performed by the Rev. John Colborne, M.A., the minister of the church. His Lordship then ascended the pulpit, and gave a most impressive address, especially adapted to his congregation. He asked them to look forward from amidst their sorrows and poverty to a bright hereafter, and then emphatically exclaimed, "There's a good time coming, when there shall be amongst you no more sorrow, poverty, or sin; but I warn you to ask yourselves seriously where you will be when that good time arrives." The congregation were struck with his Lordship's animated and yet simple style of oratory; and, as he passed away from the church, he was followed by hundreds. It was announced that the Bishop would preach at St. Peter's Church, in the same parish, on the evening of Wednesday, the 23rd inst.

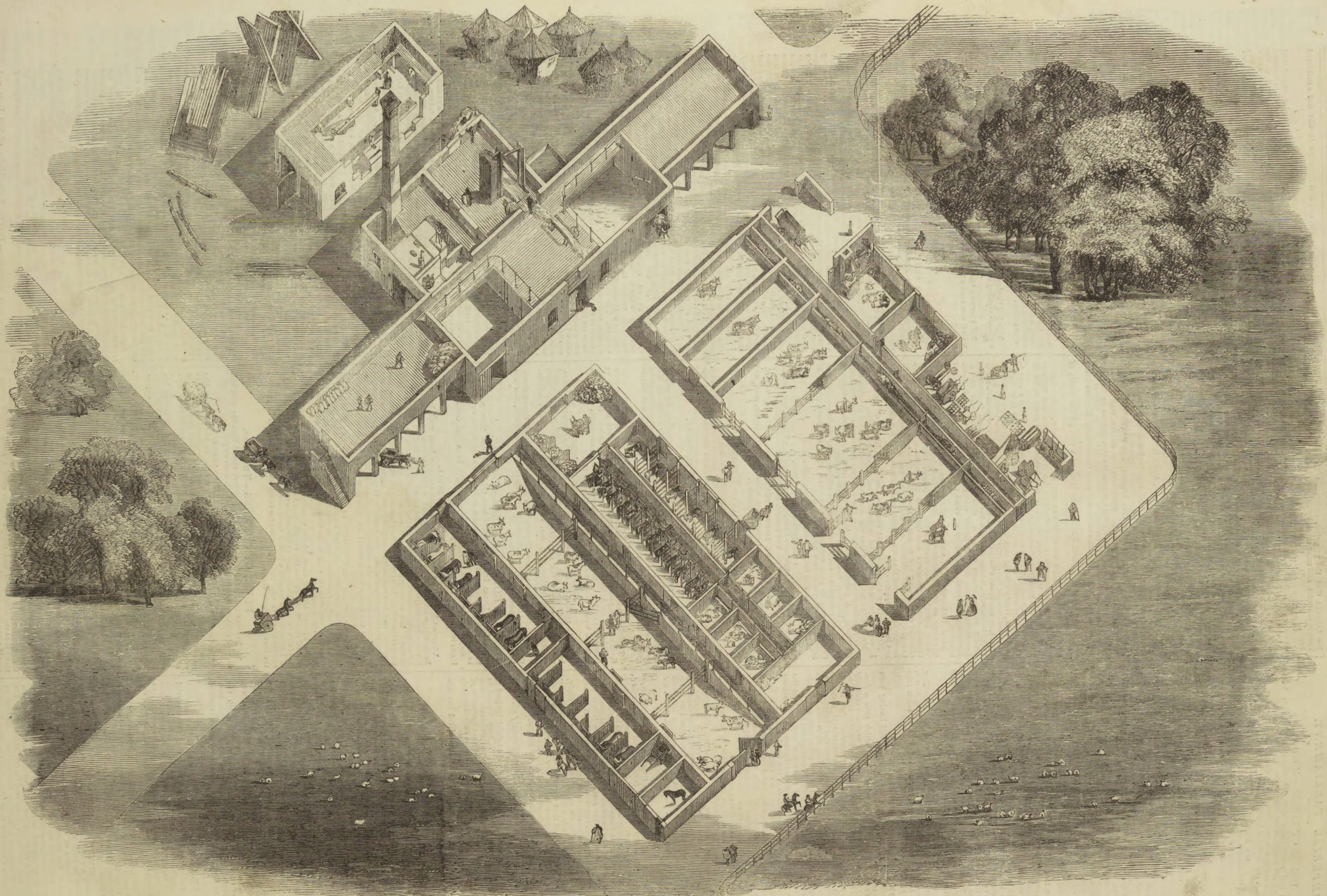
SOCIETY OF ARTS.—At the usual Wednesday meeting, Mr. S. Sidney read a paper on the "Progress of the Agricultural Implement Trade during the last Twenty Years." He treated the subject in agricultural order—began with the pipe tile draining machine, and then proceeded to describe the improvements which had been made, and accepted by the agricultural public, in ploughs, harrows, cultivators, rollers, drills, horse hoes, for cultivating the soil; haymakers, horse-rakes; reaping machines for gathering crops, and barn machinery for preparing them for the corn market. He concluded by a brief account of the progress of the trade in agricultural steam-engines, and the prospects of, and demands for, an economical steam cultivator. The paper, which was illustrated by diagrams of a zig-zag harrow, an old Lincoln swing plough, an inverted horse-hoe and clodcrusher, models of drills and ploughs, with one of Howard's celebrated ploughs on the floor, led to an interesting discussion, in which Mr. Caird, M.P., the chairman; Mr. Baker, Mr. Scott, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Garrett, took part.

THE ROBBERY OF THE COUNTESS OF ELESMEYER'S JEWELS.—A very explicit confession has just been made by a young man, named Atwell, a prisoner in Chelmsford Gaol, as to the robbery of property belonging to the Countess of Ellesmere on the 22nd of January, 1856. The property, which was of great value, was contained in a box, which was stolen from the roof of a cab on its way to a railroad station. Atwell states that he, with two other men, known as "Witty" and "Saint," was out on the day just mentioned with the intention of committing robbery. They followed the cab, and Witty jumped up behind it, and pulled the box down. The horse reared up, but the driver did not observe them. They took it to the shop of Jackson, an oilman in Leonard-street, Shoreditch, and opened it in the back parlour, in the presence of Jackson and his wife. Atwell says:—"I noticed the name of the Countess of Ellesmere, painted in white letters, on the top of the box, and I said, 'This lady is almost next to the Queen.' 'By that,' said Jackson, 'I hope you have got something good.' Witty began taking out the things. Mrs. Jackson said, 'They are very nice things.' They consisted of ladies' dresses. Then Witty discovered a little box containing a bracelet. I said, 'Jee, this is gold.' He took another out of the box; went on further and brought out a box shaped like a half-moon—that contained a coronet for a lady's head. There was a thing in the shape of a butterfly, covered with sparks (diamonds). This was sold to Mrs. Jackson for half-a-crown, and a large quantity of dresses and shawls for 50s. Jackson purchased a handkerchief full of jewellery for £40. A lot of loose diamonds and 'blue drops' were sold next morning for 5s., and the other contents disposed of in a similar fashion." Jackson and his wife have been committed for trial on the charge of feloniously receiving the stolen property.

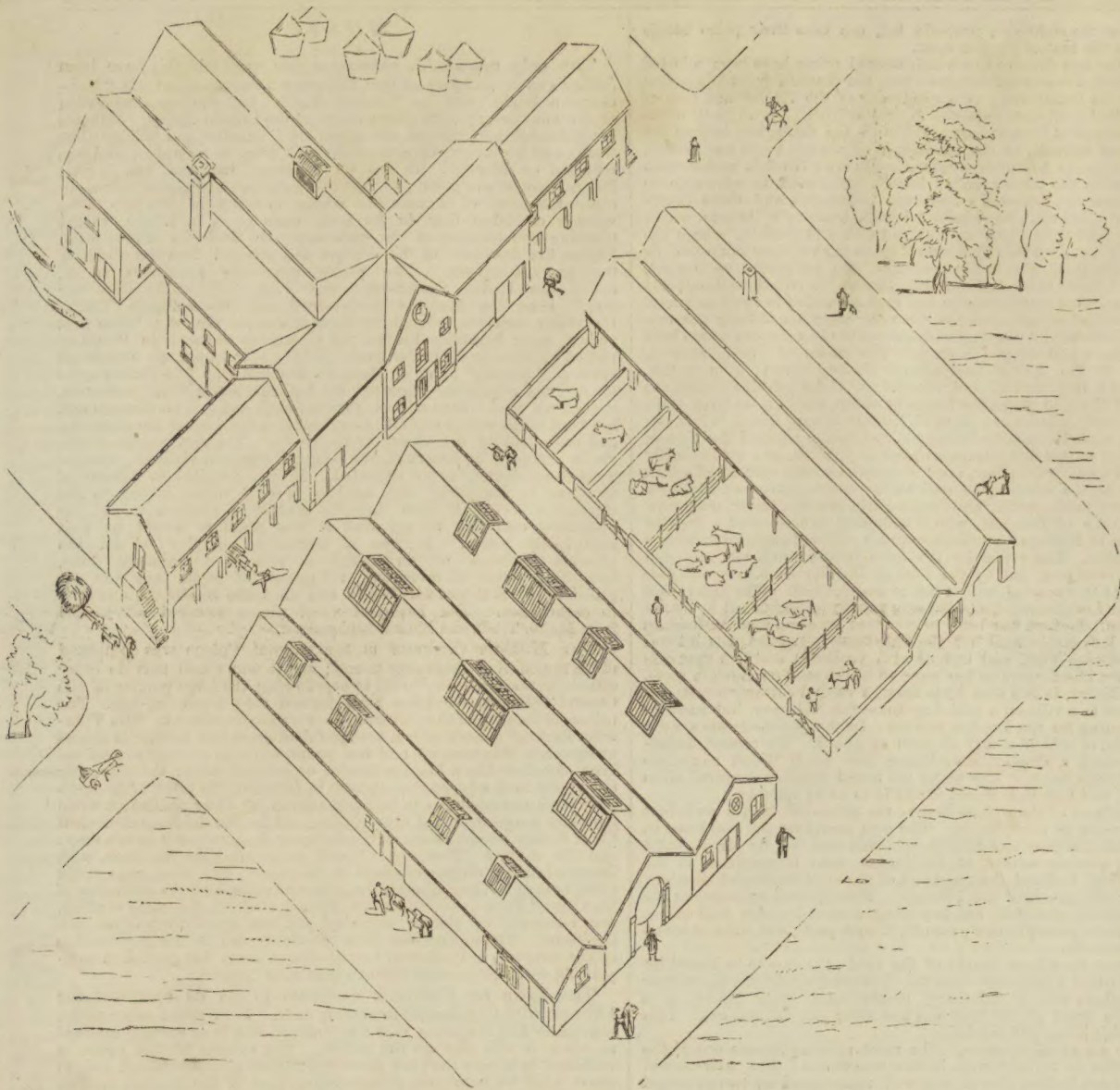
SPITALFIELDS WEAVERS' BREAD FUND.—The distress at present existing in Spitalfields has called into existence the above fund, the subscriptions to which already amount to £345, including donations of £100 each from Messrs. Morrison, Dillon, and Co., Messrs. Leaf, Sons, and Co., and Messrs. Durant and Co. It appears that there are at the present time upwards of 3000 looms unemployed, involving at least 8000 persons in great destitution.

AN INQUEST was held on Wednesday at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the body of George Goble, who died in the hospital from injuries he had sustained from a pistol shot, inflicted by himself after an attempt to murder his wife on Saturday, the 7th of November. Evidence was adduced showing clearly that the deceased had been for some time of an unsound state of mind, and the jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity."

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Last week the births of 938 boys and 874 girls, in all 1812 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1504.—The mortality of London continued high last week, and even showed a tendency further to increase. In the two previous weeks the deaths were about 1380; in the week that ended last Saturday they rose to 1428.



FARM BUILDINGS ERECTED FOR THE EARL OF MACCLESFIELD, AT SHIRBURN, OXON



PLAN OF NEW FARM BUILDINGS AT SHIRBURN, OXON.

NEW FARM BUILDINGS, OXON.

At this season of the year Agriculture and Rural Improvements become subjects of paramount attraction; and the great gatherings of the Smithfield Club have a significant interest in directing public attention to the means by which the vast results in Baker-street have been accomplished. It may, therefore, be inferred that the accompanying illustrations of some important works will be peculiarly acceptable at the present moment.

They represent some Farm Buildings which have lately been erected for the Earl of Macclesfield, at the Home Farm, on his estate at Shirburn, Oxfordshire, about a mile from the castle, the residence of the noble proprietor, and within a short distance of the town of Watlington. They combine so much of novelty in their arrangement as to make them interesting to those connected with agriculture; and, from the skill and practical knowledge which have been exercised in their construction and details, it has rendered them a valuable model from which architects and others who may be desirous of becoming acquainted with buildings of this class may gain much useful information. We understand that the Farm is visited by persons from all parts of the country, the kind courtesy of the noble Earl allowing any one an inspection.

The larger view is taken without the roofs, showing the walls four feet

high above the floors, in order to comprise and show as much of the general arrangement of the homestead as possible. Where there is an upper floor the walls are shown carried up four feet above it.

One main feature in the buildings is the extensive nature of the machinery department, and the several purposes for which steam power is made available—viz. for thrashing the corn of the farm, cutting chaff for the horses and cattle, crushing oats and beans, grinding corn, drawing water from a deep well to supply a cistern, from which the water is conveyed by iron piping throughout all parts of the homestead, and also for sawing timber, both in the round and in plank, for the use of the estate; and, besides these, there are other purposes for which steam-power is intended to be applied.

The covered yards form another feature worthy of remark. They afford dry and healthy accommodation for cattle, and also receptacles for the manure which is thrown into them from the stables, piggeries, and feeding-stalls adjoining. The manure is allowed to accumulate in them without exposure to the sun and rain until it is required to be carted on the land. The bottom of these yards is four feet below the level of ground outside.

Four separate systems of cattle-feeding are provided for in this establishment—viz., the covered-yard system, the open-yard, the stall-

feeding, and the box-feeding systems—each possessing advantages for particular kinds or breeds of cattle.

Another part of the homestead strikes us as somewhat novel and likely to be extremely useful. A large covered way is provided at the back of the straw-barns, of dimensions sufficiently large to contain a rick of corn; it is intended to have a tramway laid into it from the rick-yard, upon which the ricks will be brought in whole to the thrashing-machine.

There is also a capacious sawing-shed fitted up with machinery to convert timber for the use of the estate, and a carpenters' workshop over it.

The buildings and roads occupy rather more than an acre of ground; the walls throughout are built of brick, the roofs are principally constructed of Baltic timber and covered with blue slates, iron being also partially employed; and all the eaves have iron guttering from which the water is conveyed by glazed stoneware piping to a capacious underground tank which is provided for supplying the boiler.

The buildings comprising the homestead are—two stables, capable of accommodating fourteen horses; harness-room, gig-house, loose box; four covered yards, each thirty feet square; feeding-stalls for twelve beasts, feeding-boxes for six ditto, six boxes or sties for pigs, three food and root houses, cattle-sheds for six open yards, blacksmith's shed, two implement-sheds, two cart and waggon hovels, two straw-barns, chaff-room with floor above for chaff-machine, two granaries for storing corn and wool, engine-room and boiler-house, mill-room, guano-house, sheaf-room and thrashing floor, covered way (as before referred to), sawing-shed, and carpenters' shop.

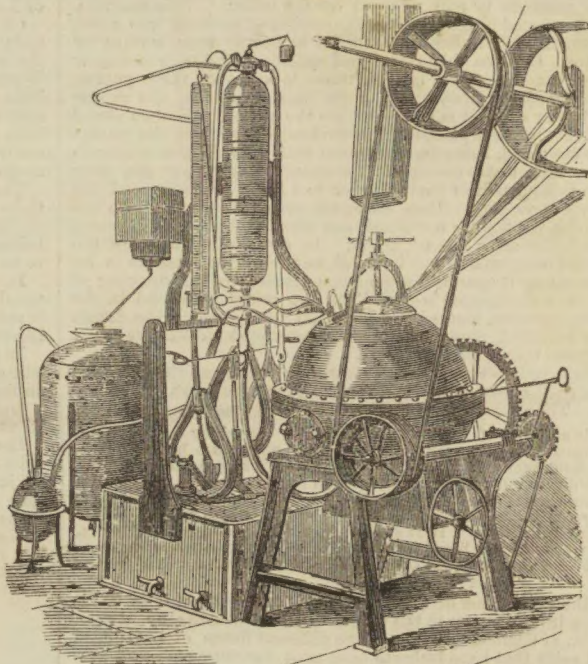
The machinery consists of a twelve horse-power steam engine and boiler supplied from Messrs. Nasmyth's well-known manufactory; one of Messrs. Clayton and Shuttleworth's combined thrashing and winnowing machines, by which the corn, at one operation, is prepared fit for market and put into bags; also a chaff-machine, a mill for grinding corn, machine for crushing oats and beans, an oilcake-crusher, sawing-machine for cutting round timber, and a bench with circular saw for ripping boards and planks.

We must not fail to remark the very excellent example the Earl of Macclesfield has set the landed gentry by so practically and usefully placing before them the result of his experience and knowledge in this set of buildings, and we hope many gentlemen may be disposed to follow it. The time has arrived when the present inconvenient, ill-arranged, and dilapidated farm buildings about the country require to be removed and replaced by buildings of this character.

The architect of these buildings is Mr. Wilkinson, of Oxford, who appears to have paid considerable attention to agricultural buildings, and to be extensively engaged in the erection of them.

NEW PROCESS FOR MAKING PURE BREAD.

To make pure bread by the process of fermentation is an impossibility. Fermentation itself is one of the forms of decomposition or decay. It



MACHINE FOR RAISING DOUGH AT MESSRS. CARR AND CO.'S WORKS CARLISLE.



THE FIRST PRIZE SHORTHORN, CLASS 10, NO. 89, £25; AND GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS, AS THE BEST STEER OR OX, AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)

is employed in bread-making, as every one knows, for the purpose of imparting lightness, and for no other purpose, and it accomplishes this simply by the escape from the decomposing particles of flour of carbonic acid gas in minute globules—one of the products of decomposition. It thus causes the dough literally to effervesce. But in obtaining this one desirable product in the mixture of flour many very undesirable products are obtained along with it, and cannot be separated, sadly inimical to health. When the flour is of fine quality and pure these products are yeast, alcohol, and lactic and acetic acids. The two latter, although not disgusting, are liable to produce various forms of disease in persons predisposed to them. But, when flour is not absolutely pure, other forms of decomposition appear to be hastened by fermentation, and then the products are often disgusting, even to the sense of smell. When fermentation is set up in liquids, such as wine and beer, all the disgusting products are deposited in a solid form at the bottom, and are separated; and the "clearing" of fermented liquids in this manner is familiar to many. But in bread the whole of these products are mixed up with the dough, and form part of what is eaten.

It is this inherent impurity in the process of fermentation that has given rise to the almost universal custom in large towns of adding to the bread unwholesome chemical substances, in order to restore to it the "appearance" which fermentation destroys. Thus it will appear how hopeless is the endeavour to destroy the system of adulterating bread so long as the public will have white bread, and the process of fermentation is followed.

The process which has just been perfected by Dr. Daughlish, after a long series of experiments at the works of Messrs. Carr and Co., Carlisle, effects the raising of bread with absolute purity and certainty.

All are familiar with the fact that so long as the cork is retained in a champagne or soda-water bottle the liquid contained in it is perfectly limpid; but so soon as the cork is withdrawn it violently froths up. The reason of this is that, so long as the pressure within the bottle is maintained by the cork, the liquid retains in solution the carbonic acid gas, or "fixed air," which has previously been imparted to it, in accordance with the law, well known to chemists, that water will absorb its own bulk of that gas however dense it may be rendered by pressure. But, taking advantage of this law, Dr. Daughlish has conceived the idea of raising dough with water which has been made to absorb the requisite quantity of gas to render the dough light. But the greatest difficulty in doing this is to make the water hold the gas until after the dough is formed with it; otherwise the gas would immediately escape when the water was drawn from the charging-vessel. To meet this difficulty Dr. Daughlish has contrived a machine by which the dough is kneaded whilst the pressure is still retained on the water. This machine, which is represented in our Engraving, consists of a strong iron globe, inside of which are properly-constructed kneading-arms, worked by steam power. Close to this globe, and raised above it, is a copper cylinder or condenser, and behind these is a set of three pumps, worked also by steam power. To work this apparatus, the proper quantity of flour and salt is placed within the globe; it is then closed quite air-tight, water is placed in the condenser, and then the pumps are set to work; and, being in connection with a gas-holder similar to that used by soda-water makers, and containing the proper gas, they continue to pump gas into the condenser to a given pressure, and the water absorbs it rapidly. Then an equal pressure is forced into the globe in which the flour is contained, and after this the water is drawn into it, and the arms are set going. In about eight minutes the dough is completely mixed and kneaded, and when the pressure is let off from the mixer it operates in the same manner as the drawing of the cork from a champagne bottle. The gas, which was held in the water by the pressure, leaves it, and in so doing expands the dough into a most beautiful, spongy, elastic mass, occupying about five or six times the space that it did previously.

From this dough is made an absolutely pure bread, and the taste and flavour are such as can scarcely be imagined by those who have not eaten of it. The advantages of the process are—

1. There is a saving of the whole of the waste caused by fermentation, which averages fully 10 per cent. Thus 10 per cent more bread is made out of a sack of flour than by the old process.
2. The process, instead of occupying eight to ten hours, is completed in half an hour.
3. The cost of machinery and gas is less than that of yeast used in the old process.
4. The dough requires scarcely any handling to form it into loaves.
5. The bread is absolutely pure. It is simply flour, water, and salt. Finally, should the whole of the bread in the kingdom be thus made, a saving would be effected of an amount equal to our entire importations of foreign wheat.

Besides the application of this process to bread-making, it is about to be largely introduced into the manufacture of biscuits by Messrs. Carr and Co., of Carlisle, in place of the different forms of carbonated alkalis and acids that have hitherto been used for the purpose of rendering biscuits light and friable; for, as well as the quality of excessive purity, the dough, even after it has been subject to the most intense pressure between rollers, retains its elasticity to a most remarkable extent. This property renders the process exceedingly valuable in the manufacture of ship biscuit; and we may hope soon to see a light, porous, pleasant biscuit take the place of the hard, flinty substance hitherto used on shipboard.

As an indication of the need of such a process being felt it may be mentioned that, within a few hours of the success of the process being known, Messrs. Carr and Co. received application from all quarters of the kingdom for information respecting the terms of granting licenses to work the patent.

THE SMITHFIELD CATTLE SHOW

THE Smithfield Club Show, stimulated either by the competition of Birmingham, or by the influences which are at work throughout the kingdom to improve every branch of agriculture, has been even more than usually successful and brilliant. On critical points, so various as those included in a fat-stock show, no one person can be competent to decide authoritatively and absolutely, least of all an agricultural writer, whose avocations scarcely permit him the time, if he had the ability, to scrutinize the 366 entries with the mature judgment of a cattle salesman; but on the authority of a jury, accidentally impaneled in the smoking-room of an agricultural hotel, composed of two Bedfordshire, one Norfolk, and one Leicestershire grazier, we venture to pass judgment and pronounce this show of 1857 one of the best ever held since the little club, with Arthur Young as honorary secretary, first threw open the doors of their stable-yard in the Barbican. There were more good animals in almost every class, and fewer bad ones, although here and there a first prize may be named not equal to some bygone celebrity.

The new arrangement into separate classes of every acknowledged breed which carried a little further the division, made a few years ago in the face of a very fierce opposition, of the three established breeds—Devons, Herefords, and Shorthorns—into three divisions, has brought out more prominently one breed at any rate—the Sussex—and given fair hopes that the invaluable Welsh runts will, at some future show, be as well represented as the Sussex. The prizes offered for cross-bred sheep brought out fine samples of an animal greatly in favour with butchers in all large towns, while the pure breeds fully maintained their place.

The feature of the 1857 show was, undoubtedly, the classes for Sussex. Of these nine were oxen or steers, and six heifers or cows, all bred in the county from which they take their name, and all but one (and this is worthy of note) bred by the exhibitors—a list not including one Peer or Baronet, for this is not a fashionable breed.

The Sussex is extremely like a Devon in form and in colour, not curvy-coated like the true North Devon, often mottled, but it is a larger and consequently a coarser animal, not so precocious, the youngest animal exhibited being three years and eight months old—a disadvantage due partly to its size, and partly perhaps to the same pains not having been devoted to its improvement as to the Devon. Sussex is one of the counties, like Devonshire and Herefordshire, where ox plough-teams are still common, are still found not too slow for the pace of the ordinary farm operations of the county. They are likely long to hold their ground in the stiff clay districts of the Weald, where a very heavy, stubborn, determined team is needed to get through the un-drained soil, on which horses of any spirit would soon be spoiled. By force of example we presume a long ox-team is often to be found turning up about three inches of soil on the light chalk downs—

A vast exertion for a small return

The late precocity of the Sussex has been found of less importance wherever ox teams are commonly used, because, put to the plough at two years old, the animal of suitable breed grows into money under treatment that would ruin a Shorthorn. For this reason the Sussex oxen often come to market at late age, well hardened with work, with plenty of mottled meat, cutting up well to the eye, but trying the teeth and the digestion of the consumers. But the best class of Sussex, brought

to market at the right age, properly fed, can take their place beside the Devons, the best of English meat.

Among the new divisions to which special prizes have been allotted are two which are decided failures—viz., the Norfolk or Suffolk polled breed, and the Longhorns; two specimens of the former and four of the latter being all that appeared in competition. Both may occasionally make good country cows, useful in the dairy, but neither are real butchers' animals, as the experience of eighty years has proved. When Coke began to improve the agriculture of Norfolk he did what he could with the native polled breeds, but found it advisable to abandon them for Bakewell's improved Longhorns, and these Longhorns, after a fair trial, he superseded with Quartley's Devons, which to this day hold their place in both Norfolk and Suffolk, where the farmers only complain that they cannot get enough of them at a price. In a Norfolk farmstead, just before December, you see plenty of Devons, plenty of Highland Scots, and some Shorthorns, but polled local bullocks are comparatively rare where cake and corn are added to roots and hay. The present Earl of Leicester has this year maintained fully the traditions of Holkham, by winning with Devons bred on his own estate both at Birmingham and at Baker-street. The name of Lord Berners, President of the Royal Agricultural Society (who, as a youth, was a friend and agricultural disciple of Coke of Holkham), as a winner of the gold medal for Leicester sheep, reminds us that Coke found the hardy, blackfaced, horned Norfolk sheep, first tried to improve them with Bakewell's Leicesters, and finally adopted the Sussex Down, which to this day retains its place in Norfolk, and was worthily represented by a Norfolk Peer, Lord Walsingham, who carried off prizes for Downs at the midland as well as the metropolitan exhibitions. But to return to the cattle. The Scotch cattle, few in number, were very fine, the Duke of Beaufort, who is becoming as celebrated a breeder of beeves as of foxhounds, maintaining his midland reputation with a splendid heifer. The prizes for the Irish breeds produced only one entry, a Kerry cow, fed by the Earl of Darnley in Kent; and this blank was to be expected, and is not to be deplored. The fact is that the old Irish Longhorn breed is being rapidly extinguished by Shorthorn crosses. Ireland has been pronounced by competent authorities the most favourable field for the Shorthorn; Ireland fills all our markets between York and Oxford with yearlings and two year olds of Shorthorn blood, more or less pure, to be fattened on English roots. As for the Kerry, it is a nice little beast, a capital cottager's cow, and better suited to a villa on a cold day than the Alderney, but scarcely worth fattening for the London market. In the Welsh classes are six entries only, of which nearly all were excellent. We cannot understand so small a display, considering how much Welsh runts are esteemed by the butcher, how many are fattened within a hundred miles of London, and how near North Wales is to us by railway.

On the subject of these three breeds the prize-list tells a sufficient story for most of our friends. The gold medal for the best beast in the yard fell this year to a Shorthorn, bred and fed by Mr. Edward Wortley, a yeoman-farmer, of Ridlington, near Uppingham, in the little county of Rutland, beating some of the most celebrated breeders, and a fair percentage of the Peerage. Pure Shorthorn oxen, as has been previously observed, are becoming scarce, because bull calves are worth more money at one year old, if well pedigreed, than as steers at three years old.

The perfect Shorthorn beauty of the yard—the cow to be kissed by those who could kiss a cow—was Col. Towneley's gold medal, winner at Birmingham and at Salisbury, beside many other prizes, as a heifer. The great pity is that she has never had but one calf. It is to be hoped it lives, and is a bull.

In sheep an excellent show. The most striking feature out of the usual routine is to be found in the crossbreds. The new-named breed, the large Oxford Downs, are well represented by two principal breeders, Mr. C. Howard and Mr. Druce.

In pigs this time the black pigs have a turn, and beat the favourite whites in several classes. The improved Berkis seem taking the place on farms of the Essex.

Ireland contributes an admirable display of roots, with a memorandum to each of all the details of cultivation.

The Implement Show includes the work of all the best makers, who did a most satisfactory business in sales; but it would be impossible to do justice to a trade which fills a catalogue of three hundred pages with a brief description of the articles exhibited at the annual shows of the Royal Agricultural Society.

We have received, too late for notice, a little pamphlet, compiled by Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, the honorary secretary, containing some interesting facts connected with the history of the Smithfield Club.

S. S.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

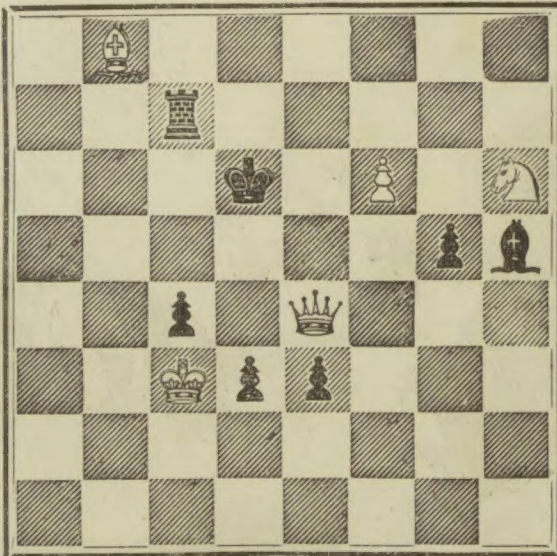
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 719, by Eldon, C. P. J. of Oxford, W. P. T., D. D., T. Simpson, Impranus, W. Sinecock, Pauline, J. W. P., H. F. S., D. W. O'C., Silgo, Lile Dell, Dr. Field, Derevon, R. Fenton, Peterkin, R. D., S. P. Q. R., Ozar, Fanny, M. P., Major T. Q. n the Corner, Box and Cox, Touchstone, Wilfred, Bumble, A School-girl, Iodine, T. F. of Heyworth, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 720, by Derevon, W. B. of Worsley, Augustus, Emmett, Boucogne, C. P. J. of Oxford, Hendrick, A. B. A., Canterbury, Lile Dell, The Rev. A. C. N., Worthing, W. A. B., Iodine, Philip, Pauline, Box and Cox, Pierre, H. D., Factotum, DI, Vernon, Maxwell, Bumble, Old Salt, P. T. L., M. P., Subaltern, Omega, Frederic, F. B., N. C., J. P. W., Semper-Idem, Alpha, Adelphe, David, Mus. Doc., A School-girl, Clericus, H. T. Y., S. M. D., X. Y. Z., R. Fenton, Adolphus, D. W. O'C., Silgo, Bullfinch, Omicron, Dominie, are correct. All others are wrong.

PROBLEM No. 721.

By Mr. FRANCIS HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 718.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. B to Q R 3rd	K moves	3. P to K B 4th	K moves
2. Kt to K R 7th	K moves	4. Kt to K B 6th—Mate.	

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 719.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. Kt to Kt 4th (dis. K to K R 6th, ch)	K to B 6th or	2. Kt to K R 2nd	Anything
* 1. (If to R 8th, White plays Q to R 2nd (ch), and then Kt to K B 2nd—Mate.)		3. Q to Q B 2nd	P moves.
		3. Q to her 3rd—Mate.	

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The National Balance-sheet for the year ended the 30th Sept. last was issued on Monday. The gross income was £71,178,662, and the expenditure was less than that amount by a sum of £484,336. The Army and Navy took upwards of £25,000,000; and the Persian expedition is set down as having cost £260,000. The sum paid to the King of Denmark for the abolition of the Sound dues, or toll on ships, was £1,125,206.

The fund in aid of the families of the fishermen who were recently drowned on the Banffshire coast amounts to upwards of £200.

MUSIC.

THE only remarkable concerts of last week and this have been Jullien's entertainments at Her Majesty's Theatre, called his "Mendelssohn Night" and his "Mozart Night," and the commemoration of the anniversary of Mozart's death at the Crystal Palace. Jullien's Mendelssohn performance was given on Thursday and Friday (last week), and his Mozart entertainment took place on Saturday, and was repeated on Monday. It was on Saturday, too, that the Crystal Palace concert was given; so that two great musical performances, in commemoration of a musician whose memory is nowhere more warmly cherished than in England, were given in London in the morning and evening of the same day. On Jullien's Mendelssohn Nights the first part of the concert was selected from the works of the great composer. The pieces were—the symphony in A, called the Italian Symphony; the duet, "O, would that my love," sung by Madame Rudersdorff and Mademoiselle Treffz; the violin concerto, played by Herr Remyeny; the song, "The first violet," sung by Mlle Treffz; the pianoforte concerto in D minor, played by Miss Arabella Goddard; and the scene from the unfinished opera of "Lorely," sung by Madame Rudersdorff. The Italian symphony was admirably executed by Jullien's magnificent orchestra, though we could have wished that the first and last movements had not been taken with a rapidity so excessive as to impair the clearness, and consequently the effect, of the music. The performance of the violin concerto by Remyeny, the young Hungarian violinist, was not quite so satisfactory as we expected. It was deficient in fullness of tone and in the purity and solidity of style which belong to the classical school. Of Miss Arabella Goddard's performance of the pianoforte concerto, to say that it was faultless would be cold and feeble praise. It was a marvellous display of all the greatest qualities of an artist—a rich and resonant tone, boundless power of execution, refinement of style, and fine expression. It is almost needless to add that she roused the audience to enthusiasm. The beautiful vocal pieces received all justice from Mlle. Treffz and Mde. Rudersdorff.

THE MOZART CONCERT at the Crystal Palace was composed of his music from beginning to end; and it was found that no other attraction was necessary to fill to overflowing the large portion of the Central Transept, which has been formed into a concert-hall. The principal features of the performance were the overture to "La Villanella Rapita," a work which, though full of grace and beauty, is almost unknown in this country, and has never, so far as we can remember, been once heard in a London theatre or concert-room; the charming symphony in G minor; the concerto in D minor, the finest of Mozart's pianoforte compositions (admirably played by Herr Pauer); a noble motet for a solo voice and chorus, composed for the Salzburg Cathedral Choir during Mozart's hard servitude under the unworthy Archbishop; and the cantata "Non temer," well sung by Miss Stabbach, with Pauer's brilliant accompaniments on the piano. The whole concert did great honour to Herr Manns, the able conductor, and the orchestra of the Crystal Palace. JULLIEN'S Mozart Concert, the same evening, was composed of similar materials, and was equally attractive and successful. The pianist was Miss Goddard, who, by her performance of the concerto in C, showed herself able to stand her ground in competition with the greatest German pianist in London.

THE ROSE OF CASTILE continues to run its course at the LYCEUM with (if possible) increasing éclat. It is given every night, constantly fills the house to the very doors, and is as warmly received as when it was new to the public. The success of this opera is sufficient to silence the cant about the neglect of native talent, and to show (what we have always maintained) that if the English musical stage has fallen into decay the fault has not lain with the public. Let Mr. Harrison and Miss Pyne go on as they have begun. They have it in their power to give us once more what we have long lost—a NATIONAL OPERA.

THE detachment from the company of Her Majesty's Theatre, including Piccolomini and Giuglini, who have been giving operatic performances during the autumn in various parts of the United Kingdom, have now visited Germany, and appeared at Hamburg and Berlin—places where the German taste exists in all its severity. They have passed triumphantly through the ordeal. At Hamburg the "Trovatore" and the "Traviata" have been received with a furore rarely witnessed in that staid city. And the following extract from a private letter describes the impression made by the prima donna and the tenore at Berlin:—"It is universally proclaimed that no artists have created so much enthusiasm as was manifested last night towards Mlle. Piccolomini and Signor Giuglini. The Prince Regent and the Court were again present, and evinced every token of delight. Ardit (the conductor) has deservedly earned great praise both from the public and orchestra. He was complimented by the Intendant-General, who conversed with him some considerable time. He, as well as the artistes, received the compliments of the Royal family. Nearly the whole of their pieces were encored; and this critical public have enthusiastically sealed the verdict of London."

MR. LUMLEY, we understand, is to commence a series of Italian operas at Her Majesty's Theatre early in January.

THE performance of "The Messiah" at St. MARTIN'S HALL on the 16th inst. presents some points of especial interest. In the list of principal performers we find the name of another member of that gifted family who, in so many departments of literature and art, have contributed to the instruction and delight of three generations. Miss Kemble is the daughter of the late John Mitchell Kemble, the eminent scholar and archaeologist, and the grandniece of John Kemble and of Mrs. Siddons. Mr. Santley, who created so favourable an impression in the recent performance of "The Creation," divides the bass part with Mr. Thomas; and Miss Messent shares the soprano part with Miss Kemble.

NEW ORGAN, EDGBASTON.—On Sunday week a new organ, built by Messrs. Hill and Co., of London, was opened in the parish church of Edgbaston. This instrument is the gift of Charles Ratcliff and Samuel Messenger, Esqrs. The compass of the great organ is C C to F in alt. Its stops are—1, open diapason, 8 feet tone throughout; 2, dulciana, tenor C; 3, stop diapason; 4, principal; 5, twelfth; 6, fifteenth; 7, sesquialt; 8, ranks, 7 trumpet throughout. The swell organ is tenor C carried down to C C with stop diapason, with—1, open diapason; 2, stop diapason; 3, principal; 4, hautboy; 5, cornopean. There are two octaves and major third of open diapason, pedal pipes from C C C; two couplers for great to swell and for pedals to great. Mr. Chipp's performance on the instrument on Sunday evinced his thorough knowledge of church service, and his pedal execution after the service showed his mastery command of the organ. The choir performed their parts well.

INDIAN MUTINY RELIEF FUND.—Several handsome additions have been made to the fund this week, the principal of which are the following:—Prince Frederick William of Prussia has forwarded £100. The Duke of Argyll has also sent a donation of £100 to the fund. There has been likewise received from the county of Devon, £2500; a second instalment from Nottingham of £1050; from Worcester, a first instalment of £1500; Gravesend, £186 6s. 11d.; Ryde, Isle of Wight, £398 13s. 2d.; Ripon and neighbourhood, £362 8s. 3d.; Barnstable, £364 2s. 11d.; additional from Hull, £250; Woodbridge, Suffolk, £271 17s. 11d.; and Great Grimsby, £180 11s. 6d. The English residents of Oporto have transmitted the sum of £343 6s. 10d. to the Central Committee in aid of the fund. The sum of £419 5s. (being the residue of a fund which was collected by British subjects in Russia during the late war, for the relief of their fellow-countrymen who were prisoners of war in that country) has also been forwarded to the Central Committee.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART PORTRAITURE.—The new paris of Messrs. Maull and Polyblank's Portrait Gallery of Eminent Men of the Day contain likenesses and memoirs of Sir William Williams of Kars, Lord Brougham, Lord Rosse, Professor Faraday, Martin F. Tupper, John Gibson, R.A., and Cardinal Wiseman. For power and fidelity, preserving both expression and character, we have seen no photographs to compare with the productions of these artists.

RECORD TOWER, DUBLIN CASTLE.—What Sir Bernard Burke has effected in the Record Tower would astonish any one who, like ourselves, knew the place before his time, and see it now. He found the tower a chaos—records piled or rather pitched in masses, one upon another, and hidden in the dust and dirt of ages. A day, at least, and one of no small drudgery, used to be requisite to get any particular document, and frequently the searcher, overwhelmed and almost suffocated, and covered with dust, gave up the task in despair. Now the contrast is most striking. The whole tower is a model of neatness and arrangement from turret to foundation-stone. Every record has its allotted place, and may be handed to the inquirer on the instant; and the lawyer, the antiquary, and the genealogist meet with no delay whatsoever in reaching the objects of their search.—*Dublin Literary Gazette.*

A Sudden Frost has caught over 100 vessels that had dallied at Cronstadt. They are now in a fix till the 1st of May, 1858; and several have begun to unload cargo, as the ice set in dangerously to their moorage in the Baltic.

THE MARKETS.

humble, self-denying, and efficient services; and in him the widow and the orphan truly have to mourn a devoted friend and counselor.



THE BLUE GROTTO AT CAPRI.—FROM MR. ALBERT SMITH'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT.

THE BLUE GROTTO AT CAPRI.

We engrave one of the Scenes from Mr. Albert Smith's new Entertainment; and also take this opportunity of giving an example of his hexameter lines, in which he describes "the Blue Grotto at Capri:"—

This is the grotto Azzura—a bright home of coral and oysters; Ultramarine is the colour that bathes all its wave-fretted cloisters. Such an abode might the Syrens have had who were "sold" by Ulysses Not a great way from the grotto, and there became food for the *pisces*; If you would know how they failed to enchant the bold Ithacan roamer, Read your Pausanias, Strabo and Ovid, and Virgil and Homer. In the meantime, as we stop at Sorrento, of Naples the glory, List to the Austrian Lloyd's engineer and his very dull story.

It is supposed that Virgil was ignorant of the existence of this cave; it is thought that he would not have omitted seizing on that which no mind like his could have passed over—he who in his poem has omitted no single point of local beauty. A poetical traveller remarks that he never saw such intense translucence as the sea possesses round the rocks of Capri; nor such beautiful specimens of iris-hued sands lying beneath, greener than emeralds and bright as sapphires. The cave has been mentioned as one of the baths of Tiberius; but this statement is apocryphal. The deep water, floating full and wide into the cave from its narrow entrance, is of the hue and transparency of the lightest and brightest sapphire. One author tells us that, when he had entered into the low-arching vault, and looked back to where the light streamed through the aperture, it appeared of a cerulean blue, so fine and ethereal that it resembled undulating flames. "I should say,"

continues the writer, "the very Spirit of Light had descended here, and held her throne upon those waters, veiling her radiancy with its robes of azure."

No description, of course, can do such a scene justice. As painted by Mr. Beverley, and witnessed at the Egyptian Hall, the visitant of Mr. Smith's lecture may gain the nearest possible apprehension of the beauty of the place. In its presence all feel that peace should be preserved and that quietness and repose should rule the hour. Too frequently, however, there is a squabble round the narrow rock-arched cave, arising from boys huddling in from their boats, placed before the entrance, who deafen the pilgrim spectator as he enters. Plunging into the water, they push the boat into comparative darkness; but the yells with which they fill the cavern, and the plashing sound of their diving bodies, are soon forgotten in the really extraordinary scene which its interior presents. Our readers have it before them in the accompanying Engraving.

IMPROVED COTTAGE DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

THROUGH the exertions of the County of Kent Labourers' Friend Society, or, rather, through the very complete and satisfactory model which it has taken so much pains to exhibit, the question of cottage accommodation bids fair to absorb a large share of public attention. This has arisen mainly from the fact that this model plan brings improvement within our reach, and affords a reasonable prospect that the "moral contagion" and the "domestic indecencies" which have formed the burden of many a despairing speech may really be reached and abated, if not obliterated.

The Illustration represents a pair of cottage dwellings—the entrance to one cottage being (as shown) on the left-hand side, and the other on the right. The accommodation for each family consists of three sleeping-rooms, a general living room, and two stores. The ventilation commences over the entrance doors, and is carried through every room into the roof. The estimated cost of each pair is 155 guineas, so that a rent of 2s. per week will give a clear return of 5 per cent on the outlay. It is most satisfactory to find the very great interest this question is now exciting in all parts of England. There has scarcely been a single agricultural meeting held at which the subject has not been brought forward.

The model has been inspected and approved by the Prince Consort at Windsor Castle (where it was retained for some days), also by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham, Lord John Russell, and also a considerable number of members of Parliament. The tenant-farmers, also, are giving this movement their warm support, the following resolution being particularly satisfactory:—

The members of the Maidstone Farmers' Club, having carefully inspected the model of improved cottage dwellings, give it their entire approval, and recommend it to the landlords of England.—October 29, 1857.

BADGE AND CHAIN OF THE MAYOR OF HULL.

THE ancient Royal town of Kingston-upon-Hull, or Hull, in the Eas Riding of Yorkshire, was established, by charter of King Edward I., in 1296; but a recent historian of the town, Mr. Charles Frost, F.S.A. (a very competent authority), has established the fact that Hull was a place of considerable mercantile importance more than a century prior to the above date. Of the insignia worn by the Mayor we find it stated in Gents' "History of Hull" that in the reign of Elizabeth (1568) the golden chain worn by the Mayors was enlarged by Madam Knowles and Madam Thurescross. The chain now consisted of 317 links, and weighed about twelve ounces; but in form it was a simple "Jack chain," without any tasteful arrangement or ornament, and so continued until the present year, when Mr. Anthony Bannister, on his serving the office a second time as Mayor of Hull in 1856, presented the Corporation with a badge which could either be appended to the chain or worn separately.



BADGE AND CHAIN OF THE MAYOR OF HULL.

The late Mayor, Mr. William Henry Moss, also, on his retiring from office on the 9th November last, restored the chain to the Corporation very considerably enlarged, and ornamented by the addition of a fourth circle of links, two shoulder bosses, and a centre shield, as shown in the accompanying Illustration, with the Badge appended. The following is a copy of the inscription engraved on the back of the shield:—

This Chain, by permission of the Council, was altered and enlarged, and the centre shield, with the shoulder bosses, added to it, by and at the expense of William Henry Moss, Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull, at the close of his Mayoralty, November, 1857.



IMPROVED COTTAGE DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

OFFICERS PROCEEDING TO INDIA, also Civilians, can effect ASSURANCES on their LIVES with the **COLONIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY** on the usual terms, the Directors having resolved not to increase their Rates at this time.

Premiums can be paid to the Company's Agents at Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, or at any other of their Agents in India. The Directors also advance Loans on good security for temporary periods.

The Colonial Agents in every British Colony, where Premiums are received, and claims settled.

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